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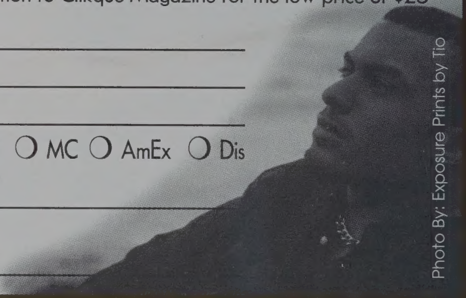

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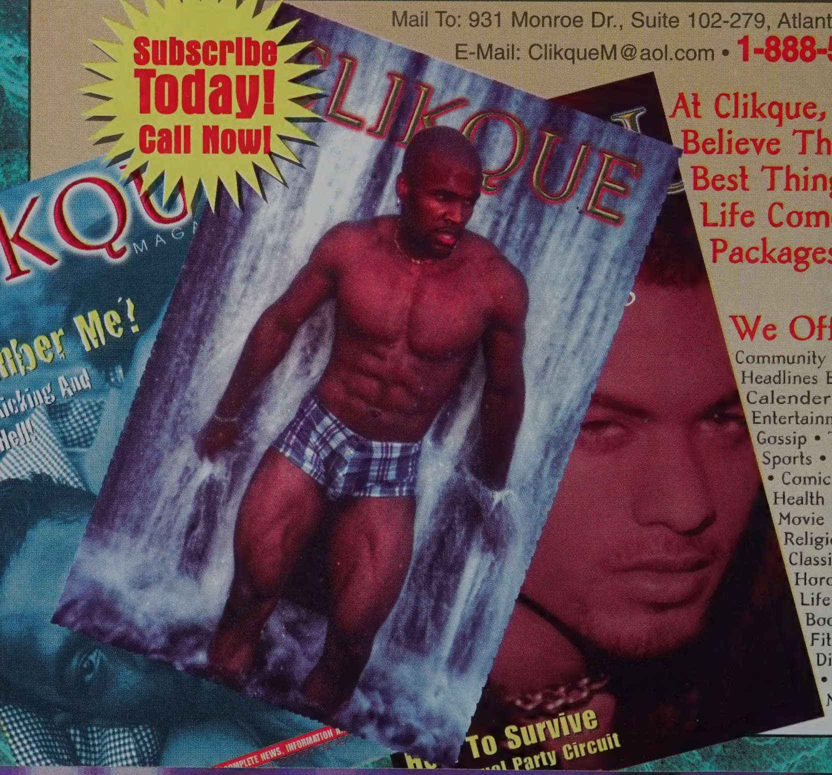
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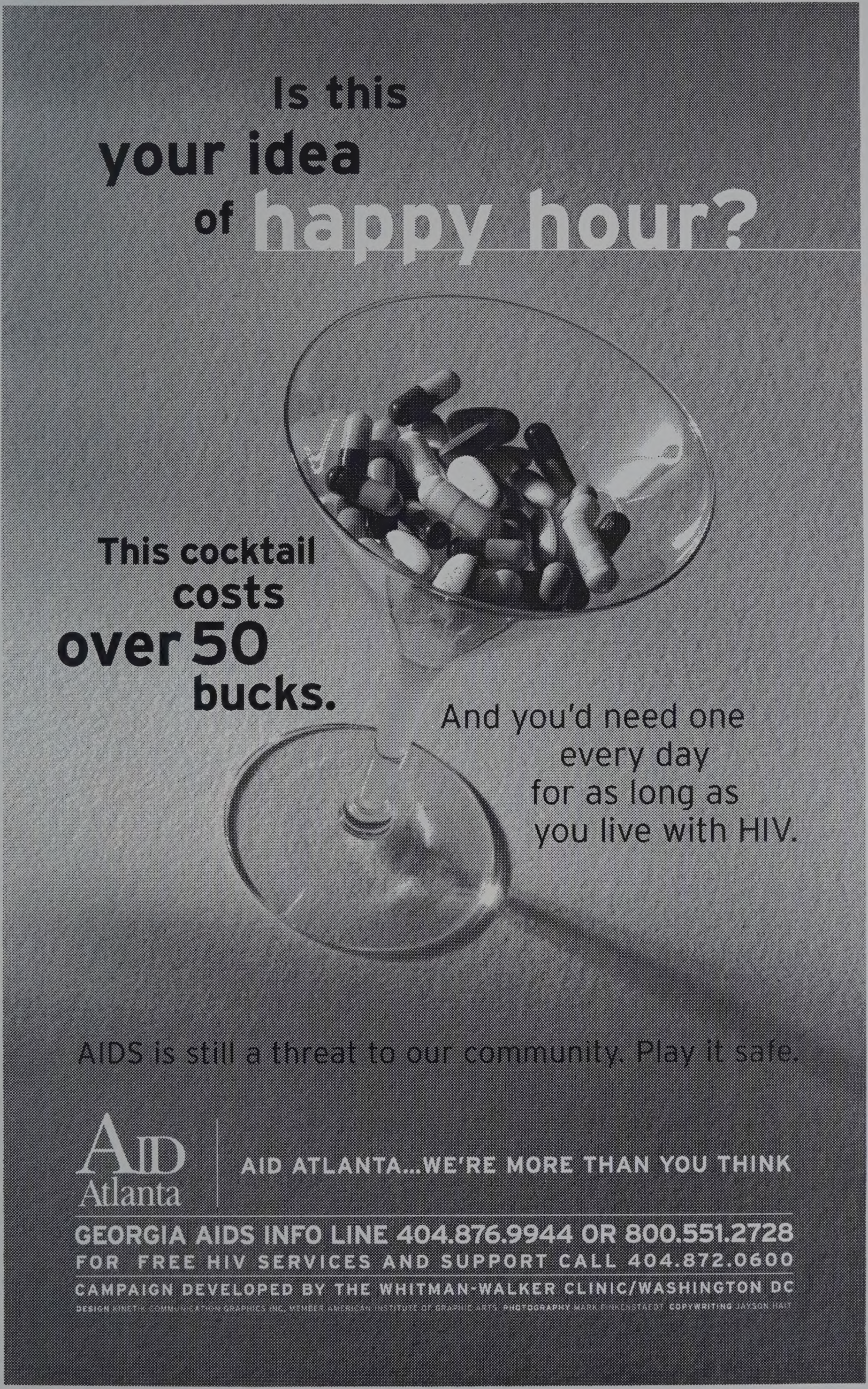

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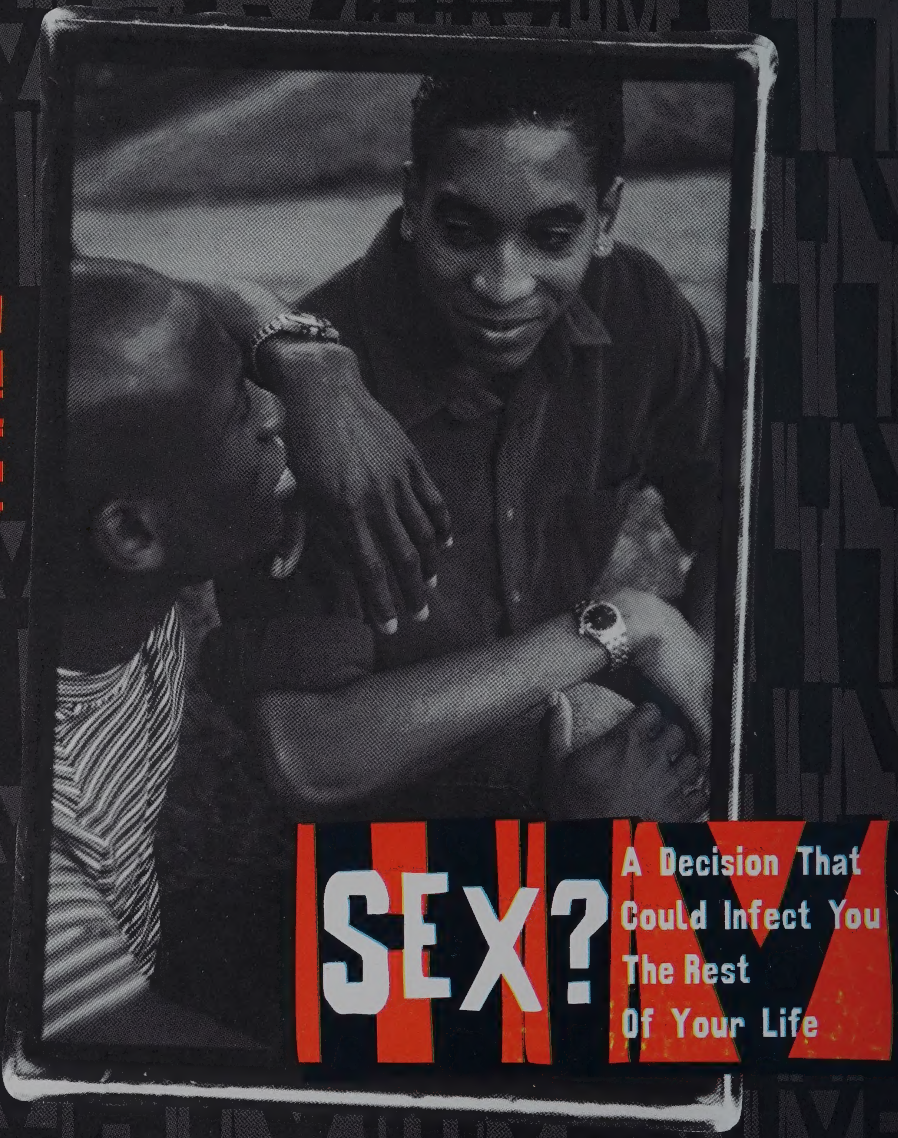
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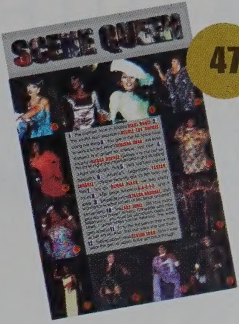
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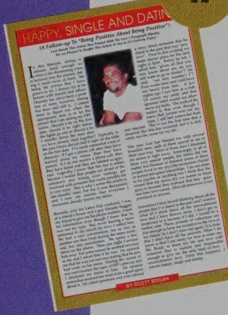
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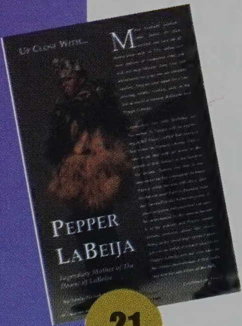
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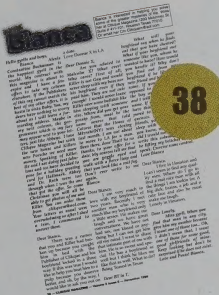

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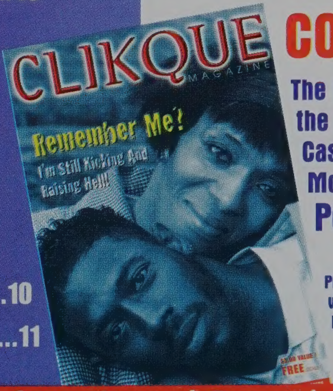
ON THE COVER

The Legendary Mother of the House Of LaBeija & Cast Member of the Hit Movie, Paris Is Burning, Pepper LaBeija

Photo By Chantal Regnault. Used with Permission from Tommy LaBaija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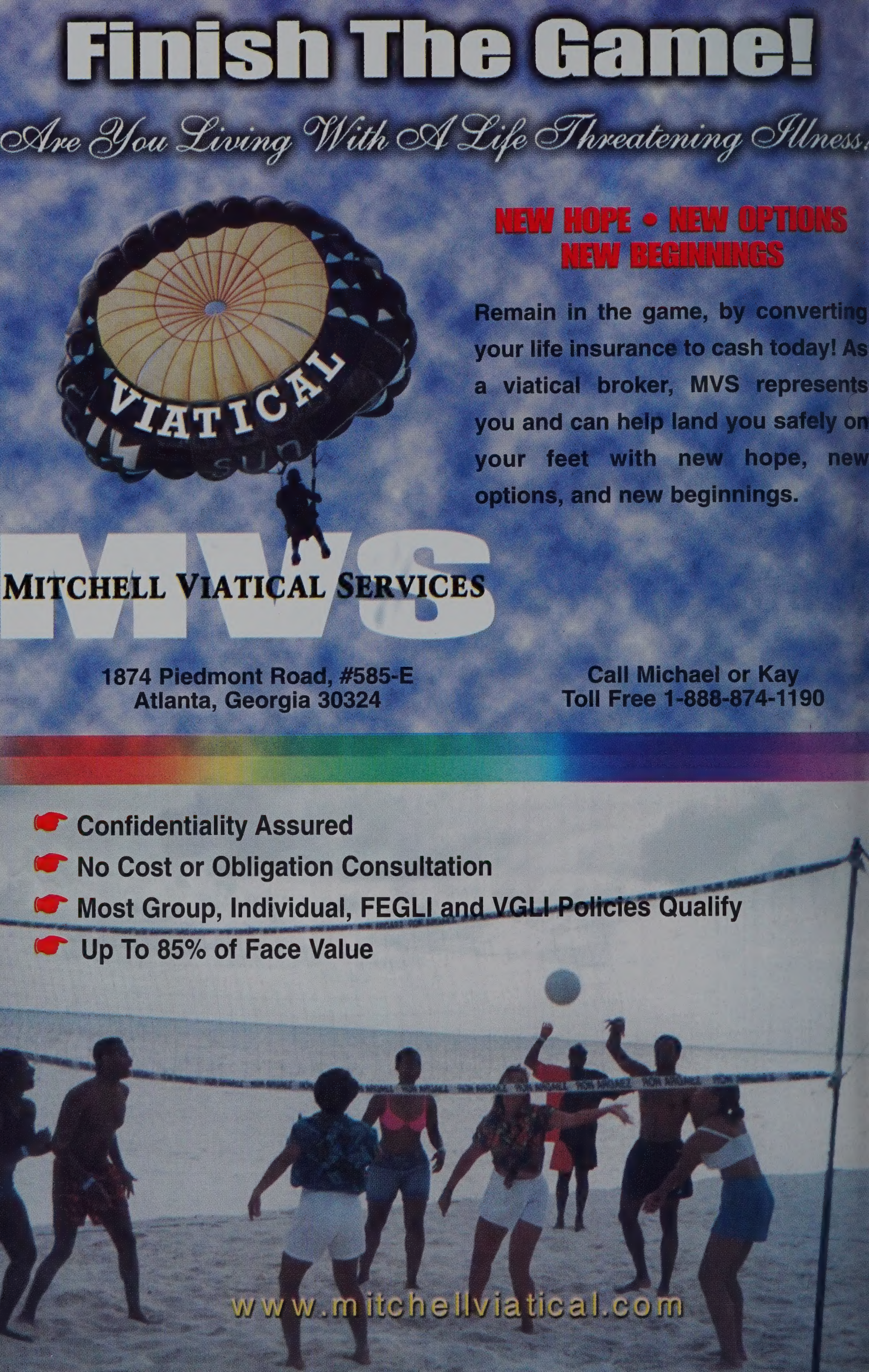

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HIV/AIDS

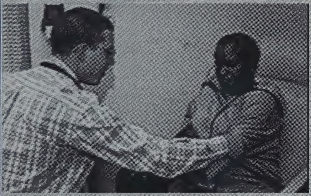
HEADLINERS

Clinton announce massive HIV aid for black community

WASHINGTON (CNN) — On Wednesday Oct 28th, 1998 President Clinton announce a multi-million dollar initiative to combat HIV and AIDS in the African-American community.

The package, which totals more than $156 million, is aimed at addressing the spread of AIDS among blacks — the fastest-growing AIDS population.

The hope is to help those like Elsie Carter, an African-American who has had AIDS for 3 years.



She said she's not sure if she was infected through drug use or prostitution.

"To be truthful, I didn't care," she said. "All I wanted was something that was going to make me feel better than what I was feeling, and I was hurting a lot back then."

Though the road to HIV is paved with intravenous drug use and unprotected sex, these issues have been taboo subjects in the African-American culture.

"We have a code of silence and we just don't like to talk about those things," said J. Cornelius Baker of the National Association of People With AIDS. "And the reality is silence equals death."

Some leaders in the African-American community say they believe the rapid spread of AIDS among blacks has created a national health emergency.

"What is most striking about this whole situation is that every hour seven Americans become infected with HIV — three of those seven Americans are African-Americans," said Dr. Beny Primm of the National Minority AIDS Council.

That is why political pressure has been brought to bear by the congressional black caucus, black doctors and others in the minority AIDS network.

AIDS statistics for blacks contrast sharply with the 47 percent decline in AIDS deaths in the overall population last year.

Leader say access to health care may not be as big an issue as trust in the health care system, sticking to a medical regimen and changing bad habits.

Life expectancy in sub-Sahara Africa hit hard by AIDS

UNITED NATIONS (CNN) — Children born today in 29 sub-Sahara African nations face a life expectancy of just 47 years because of the toll the AIDS pandemic is taking on the region, according to the latest population report from the United Nations.

The life expectancy figure, included in a population report due to be released Wednesday, represents a 16-year drop, the United Nations said.

However, the population in the 29 African countries is expected to remain the same or continue to climb because fertility in these nations is high, the U.N. report states.

Last year, AIDS killed 2.3 million adults and children, and 30 million people are currently infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, officials said. According to the U.N. report, 91 percent of the deaths occurred in 34 countries — 29 in sub-Sahara Africa.

The report says the demographic impact of AIDS "is expected to intensify in the future," especially in the nine African nations where more than 10 percent of the adult population is infected with HIV: Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"By 2010-2015, the average life expectancy at birth in these countries could be only 47 years. In the absence of AIDS, it would have been expected to reach 63 years. This represents 16 years of life expectancy lost to AIDS," the U.N. report said.

Earlier this month, the South African government launched a nationwide campaign to increase AIDS education and correct common misunderstandings about the killer disease.

The United Nations has said nearly 13 percent of South Africa's adult population is infected with HIV, and that an estimated one out of 10 infected people don't realize they have the virus.

Other world population projections: Some other world population projections included in the U.N. population report: The world population estimate stood at 5.9 billion in mid-1998, and was growing by 1.33 percent a year, an average of 78 million people. Nations with the highest population growth are: India, China, Pakistan, Indonesia, Nigeria, the United States, Brazil, Bangladesh, Mexico and the Philippines. Depending on future fertility trends, the world's population in 2050 is projected to be between 7.3 billion to 10.7 billion. Africa has the highest population growth rate of all major regions in the world — 2.36 percent. During the last two years, Africa's population, currently 749 million, surpassed Europe's, which is currently 727 million.

The population estimates and projections are prepared every two years by the Population Division of the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The figures are used throughout the U.N. system.

EDITORIAL

BY LEWIS NICHOLSON

The millennium is fast approaching and it is hard to believe that it is already November 1998. Usually at this time of year we are forced to reflect upon our lives and its accomplishments.

For Gay people this can be an extremely difficult time. Tradition dictates that this is a time for families to get together and laud the efforts of those that have done well, and encourage those who need a boost. For Gay children it is usually a time to lie about whom we are dating or hope that the question of when we will be getting married never comes up.

After my horrendous ordeal of my parents finding out that I was gay, since I was outed and did not come out voluntarily, it has been fun watching my brothers and sisters quickly change the subject of my impending, never happening marriage when a cousin or uncle would introduce the subject.

Two years ago they gave up and one could say they announced my sexuality, as if I was a debutante of some sort. It was slightly embarrassing at the time, but it is so good to not, have to hide anymore, even though I miss watching my immediate family try to shield me from my tongue wagging, venom spewing relatives. Because of our royal blackness and strong religious beliefs, the Nicholsons' celebrate Christmas in a much more grand fashion than they do Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for me has become a second family affair. A few years ago I realized that most of my friends hated the Thanksgiving ritual at their own homes and we would all literally race away from our family homes, as if we were in a serious car chase with the police. We decided that we would have ourselves a splendid Gay Thanksgiving.

During the first celebration we gave thanks for boyfriends, the many gorgeous men we had and Helmut Lang and Gianni Versace, all against the back drop of beautiful flowers and the sound track from, "Waiting to exhale". Last year Prada was high on the thank you menu, for making belts that my former roommates in New York Live for. We Thanked God for our families, but we were even more thankful for friends who understood us.

Thanksgiving will never be the same for us again. This year we celebrate in the nation's capitol with the hopes that the President will stop by for the after party. The fearful days of going home for Thanksgiving are over and we now look forward to our Thanksgiving celebration. I hope that those of you with similar Thanksgiving fears will get together with your friends and have a real Thanksgiving celebration this year, because we have a lot for which to give thanks. You have ample time to prepare. We have jobs, cars, strength, food on our plates, education, and more importantly we have each other. So this Thanksgiving does not be sad or depressing ,get together with your friends and have a blast of a thankful time. For those of you who have traditional families who have accepted you, thank God specially for them and let them know, just how happy you are, that you could bring your boyfriend home for the holiday.

Let us not forget to thank God for this great Nation in which we live and his many blessings. Finally, remember to give thanks for the publisher as well as the founding members of this magazine without whom you would not be reading this today. Until next month, play hard, but remember to play safe.

Lewis.

CLIKQUE MAGAZINE

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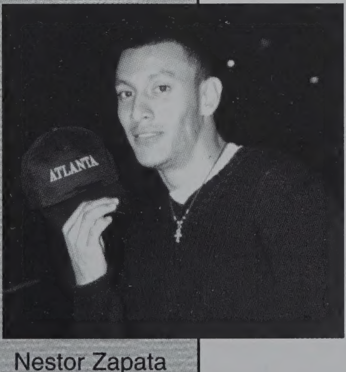

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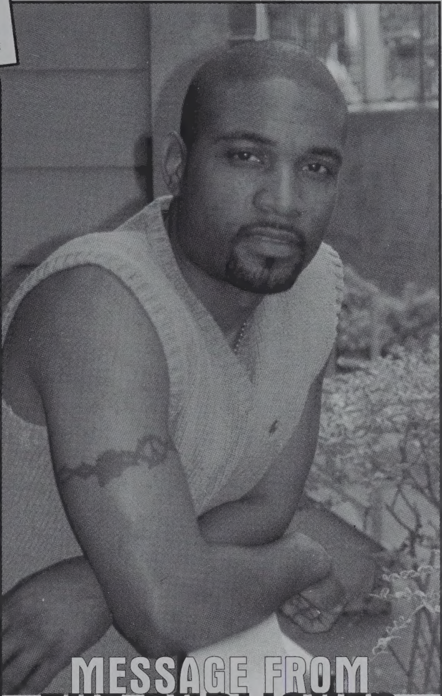

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of you that have taken the time to give us feedback on our progress and short-comings thus far.

Please be assured that each comment, suggestion or criticism, be they constructive or not, are given the highest priority and consideration. Clikque Magazine is not only the property of it's publisher, but rather, it also belongs to you, my loyal readers. I acknowledge that without your support and continued interest, this venture will not be successful.

So continue to send your comments and suggestions, and with your help and continued support, we can make Clikque Magazine the best that it can be.

Dwight.

DPowell

JUST Issues

MONTHLY COLUMN BY CRAIG WASHINGTON

If clarity is our friend then discord may be considered a helpful acquaintance. Now let me be clear, I'm talking about polite disagreement, without the accompanying dose of shade, bile, and venom. And trust, the kids can agree to disagree with no lack of candor or honesty. We can learn so much from our "arguments" when we challenge each other without coming for one another.

Here's a perfect example. Last September, Keith Boykin (author of "One More River To Cross and former E.D. of the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum) shared his reflections on Community-building among black lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, abd transexual folk. His remarks summoned a flurry of swift responses many of which were critical of Mr. Boykin's ideas. I have collected an impressive stack of e-mail recording this voluminous national discourse. To my surprise (what's up with my expectations?) most of the replies were respectful, however, vehemently they may have disagreed with Mr. Boykin or each other.

But it wasn't the model behavior that razzed my berry. It was the fact that so many of us were engaging each other with serious intellectual rigor. Every day for about 2 weeks, I could tap into a wide stream of exchange distilled from different styles and viewpoints. There were great strategies offered for publishing all that chitchat and making it accessible to those who are not online. It was hot.

And that made me think of Hotlanta and the possibilities here. Although there are a number of organizations that feature group discussions, what about those of us who don't like clubs or large meetings? I have heard some of the most insightful analysis about black gay folk whispered at the corner of a smoke-filled bar (I was just passing by) or shouted above some tribal house mix. While such conversations are highly valuable they can't be replicated. That clever turn of a phrase or simple profound summation is often forgotten and forever lost. Many of us can recall a departed loved one whose remarks we'd love to have written down. My good friend Duncan Teague often urges black gay men to write more, given our often apparent mortality.

So what's all this fuss about, you ask? It's a call to arms and pens and keyboards. Whether it's this new club or that lesbian erotic poetry reading; chat rooms or tea rooms; religion or regentrification we need to write more about it all, if for no reason other than to vent, its okay. You don't have to be a "writer" to write - you just need to have something to say. And you never know how your words may provide "clarity" or encouragement or amusement. You may even elicit very, shall we say, sharp counterpoints but all that, adds flavor to the mix.

Now we are blessed with Clikque, a slick glossy mag that's by, for and about us. It's not only attractive, it has substance. And it can be an ongoing public forum for us. From the comfort of our home, we can speak our mind with no inhibition. I would like to use this space to invite dialogue, debate, and of course, our helpful acquaintance "discord" which when coupled with our friend "clarity" may bring forth all kinds of revelations. In the coming months, some things I write may rub you the wrong or the right way or just plain piss you off. Whatever! If you hate stamplicking there's always e-mail. As long as you just exercise those digitals and express yourself.

Peace, CW

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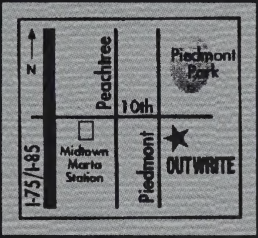

BOOK REVIEW & SIGNING

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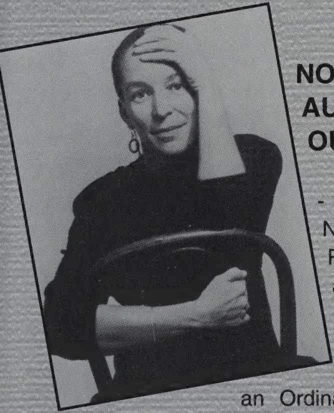


NOVEMBER AUTHOR AT OUTWRITE

- Wednesday, November 11, 8 PM: Reading and signing by Pearl Cleage, What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day, Avon, $12.00. An Oprah's Book Club selection.

The debut novel by Atlanta's Pearl Cleage novel begins with Ava Johnson returning to her hometown after more than a decade with the brothers and sisters in Atlanta, which, she had been told, was the place to be if you were young, black and had any sense at all. Her fabulous career plans have been smashed by testing positive for HIV, and the once-thriving resort community she returns to is now plagued with unemployment, crime and despair. What she planned as a short family visit becomes a touchstone with her past.

Pearl Cleage is the author of Mad at Miles: A Black Woman's Guide to Truth and Deals with the Devil and Other Reasons to Riot. Her plays have been produced in such theaters as Alliance Theater Company, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Kennedy Center. Cleage is a teacher at Spellman College, co-founder of Catalyst Magazine, contributing editor of Ms. Magazine and a regular contributor to Essence Magazine. She was also the press secretary for Mayor Maynard Jackson.

South Africans brace for Truth Commission report

CAPE TOWN, South Africa. It is not an easy story to tell: a tale of prejudice, torture and killing that spans more than three decades and involves an entire nation.

But telling the story is the task of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which will present its final report to the nation next week.

On October 29, Desmond Tutu will give the3,500-page tome to President Nelson Mandela and mark the end of the commission's trawl through the violence that wracked South Africa during the apartheid era.

The report is the culmination of the commission's work since it was set up in 1995, a year after all-race elections ended white-minority rule. It will describe the abuses of the past, try to explain why they happened and apportion blame.

"The report is an important milestone," Truth Commissioner Mary Burton said. "It has been a very necessary, but very difficult experience for individuals and the country."

Some will be relieved, others angered

Some whites, burdened by evidence of the brutality of the past, may be relieved the probe is finally over. Others may be angry and think it unfairly blames those who claim they were only fighting communism.

For many blacks, the report means the story of their suffering has finally been told, and that victims have been given a chance to speak out. But some may feel cheated; most of apartheid's top leaders are believed to have admitted nothing.

During its three years, the commission has rarely been out of newspaper headlines. People, such as police death-squad leader Eugene de Kock — dubbed "Prime Evil" by his own men — horrified the world as they described cruel deaths meted out to black activists.

But among the horrors, there have been lights of hope, like physiotherapist Gin Fourie, whose daughter was killed during an attack by black gunmen on a Cape Town student bar.

Fourie supported giving amnesty to the three men who killed her daughter. After they walked free from jail, she hugged them.

Criticism of both sides expected

Truth Commission staff are tightlipped about the report's details. However, it seems likely that senior figures from both sides of the conflict will be criticized.

In recent months, the commission sent about 200 letters warning people they may be portrayed negatively. Local newspaper reports say liberation heroes like Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, and current Deputy Defense Minister Ronnie Kasrils are on the list, as are senior apartheid figures like former President P.W. Botha.

Though the blame for the past conflict will overwhelmingly be placed on white governments and their brutal security services, the African National Congress was nervous enough about the report to request a meeting with the commission earlier this month.

The commission refused, to avoid appearing biased.

ANC spokesman Thabo Masebe said his party was told it could be implicated in human rights violations for planting land mines on border farms and for abuses at military camps in Angola. But Masebe said the ruling ANC had nothing to fear.

"We have not hidden anything," he said. "Ours was a just war." On numerous occasions, Tutu, a former Anglican archbishop and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, has stressed his belief that those who struggled against apartheid, even if they used violence, were on the side of justice.

The "just war" concept is likely to be discussed at length in the report.

Thousands seek amnesty

Even after the report, the commission's work will live on. It has been swamped with 7,000 amnesty applications, and the amnesty process has been extended indefinitely.

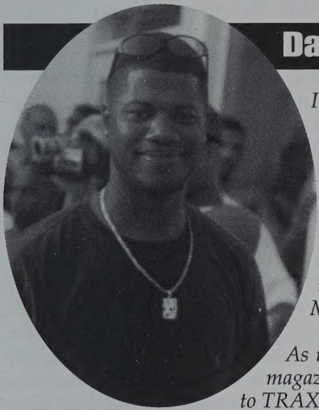
The report itself could also be potentially explosive. Many prominent South Africans, like Madikizela-Mandela and Botha, did not apply for amnesty. They could face criminal prosecution if the report finds they committed human rights abuses.

The report will likely leave many questions unanswered. Condensed from 20,500 victim statements and testimony from 140 public hearings in 61 different towns, it is a mere summary of millions of pages of evidence that will be placed in South Africa's National Archives.

As for reconciliation, the report will not immediately bridge South Africa's age-old racial divides.

"I don't think one should expect political miracles or dramatic shifts in public opinion," said Tom Lodge, professor of politics at the University of the Witwatersrand. "But I think it will contribute to a general healing."

In Memory of an Atlanta Icon



David Hampton 1963-1998

It's amazing how often we take things and people for granted. One minute I was talking to David about his next ad in Clikque and a few days later, I was reading about his passing. One positive aspect about death is that it makes us stop and take stock of ourselves: It forces us to re-evaluate the important things in life.

David Hampton, a 35 year old graduate of Hampton University in Virginia was probably one of the most popular night club promoters in Atlanta. For the past 10 years, David served as the Promotions Manager at TRAXX, the nightclub.

As the first business establishment in Atlanta to accept and support our magazine, we here at Clikque would like to show our support and say thanks to TRAXX and a man that has been extremely kind and rather accommodating to us. I remember David saying to me, how important it is for black businesses to support each other. I can also remember the day David called, and offered his support. That's not something that happens very often.

On October 5th 1998, we lost David Hampton. Yes, we have lost David's physical presence, but he will remain in the mind and hearts of the many people that he has touched over the years. As a tribute to David, today, tell the people that are important to you how much they mean to you. Remember that time waits on no man, so say it now... before you run out of time! — Dwight Powell

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Hate-crimes! Who Gives A Damn? Who?

Healing is within our grasp!

By: Cleo Manago

A week ago, while in New York City gleaning over the New York Times, I noticed a front-page article entitled "Killing Shakes Complacency Of The Gay Rights Movement." The article covered a local demonstration staged in reaction to the killing of Matt Sheppard - a 21 year old, gay [White] college student from Wyoming. An estimated 5000 people, predominately White lesbians and gays, rallied, marching through major thoroughfares, paralyzing the city's streets. Concurrently, similar events took place across the nation. Vigils and even "funerals" were held to honor young Sheppard. The article's title "Killing Shakes Complacency....." referenced that previous to the Sheppard incident the gay [White] community had become relatively complacent, seemingly content with its political and social accomplishments. In recent years few protests or public demonstrations have been held.

As I read about the [White] gay/lesbian community's swell of reaction to Matt Sheppard - who has since become the poster child for hate-crimes in America - and complacency and "success" in that community, I acknowledged my strong reaction to this report and how it marginalized the lives and experiences of people like me, who are same-gender-loving (SGL), bisexual or gay/lesbian identified Black Americans. Every year of my life Blacks, regardless of gender and sexuality, have experienced murderous hate-crimes executed by White civilians and law enforcement. Violence also occurs in the community as a result of Black-on-Black contempt for Black life, but that is not the focus of this writing. Acknowledgement of it is important - these are also hate-crimes generated from the fabric of America's brutally racist legacy. During the New York City rally [White] gay/lesbian protesters displayed pictures of past victims of hate-crimes, the majority of whom were Black and Latino. Yet, the issue of hate-crimes against "gays" did not reach prominence until one person died who was prototypical of most at the rally - Matt Shepphard - a White, homosexual male.

I found Sheppard's killing disturbing, but after coming upon monthly if not weekly reports of murders and brutal assaults toward Blacks resulting from "hate-crimes," I refused to be swept away with reaction and grief by Sheppard's high-profiled tragic death. I could not emotionally afford to utilize my great capacity to care about a murdered young man, White, who died at the hands of hate. Though Matt's face filled the media landscape and my thoughts, I provided little psychic room for him because I am still in mourning over Black bodies that have piled up over recent years, months and days previous to Shepphard. I am still enduring that it appeared few cared about James Byrd - dragged to death; Sherrice Iverson - strangled to death and raped at 7 years old; Garnett Johnson - beheaded, burned alive; Antwan Sedwick, 20 years old -suspected to have been hung by two White policemen who noticed him celebrating the OJ Simpson verdict; Dante Evans 13 and his 14 year old cousin who were shot to death while playing "because they were niggers," all killed by Whites for being Black, and the list goes on and on.

There was no national rallying or extended media attention for ANY of these victims. But, more tragically than that, not many of us were around either. Yes, this is America, a country espousing to be the super power of the "free" world, but so many of its Black citizens, in this context its homosexual/bisexual Black citizens, are still politically, economically and psychologically in deep bondage. Still too disoriented to care enough about each other, to demand respect, self-determination and a quality or long life. Regardless of my forthright critique of [White] gay/lesbian racism, them not showing up to protest murder by hate-crime of Blacks, especially, Asians, Native-Americans or Latinos and prioritizing themselves is not my primary concern. My concern is how Blacks are still complacent in the wake of tragedy that effects us so severely. Though it is the epitome of White insensitivity, racism and arrogance for [White] gays/lesbians to make Matt Sheppard an icon of hate crimes, without being straight-up about that they prioritize the lives of Whites, I admire what White skin privilege and White power legacy inheritance in America has provided them. They have the courage to fight-back, they have the clarity to say "No More", they are organized enough to stop traffic in Midtown Manhattan because one of "theirs" has died. As a result of their feelings of human (and white) entitlement they enjoy great political, economic and psychological success and gain the time and space to be complacent. Yes, though the White gay community is despised and discriminated against, they still benefit from the fact that they are White in a White biased culture. I am sure their audacity is rooted in what I call White entitlement consciousness (the belief that as "White" people they are completely entitled to own what the world offers). The capacity to have entitlement consciousness is within our grasp as Black people as well. But accompanying this consciousness must be vigilance, Black love, Black SGL love, the capacity to love one's self as Black and as part of a legacy. As we have all heard, yearly Blacks spend hundreds of billions of dollars, but we typically lack the consciousness to invest

Continued On Page 37

HAPPY, SINGLE AND DATING

(A Follow-up To "Being Positive About Being Positive")

Last Month This Article Was Printed With The Last 1 Paragraph Missing. We are Pleased To Reoffer This Article To You In It's Entirety. Enjoy!

In this lifestyle, dating is already hard enough so when a life-threatening virus is factored into the picture, dating is made twice as hard. Me being the person that I have grown to be, I always try to be honest with myself and others. Honesty has never been a problem of mine, however, timing has been and still is. I cannot seem to figure out when the appropriate time is to let the person that I am dating my HIV status. Should it be on the first date, should it be right before the lights go out or should it be 3 months down the road after we have already slept together? Typically, in the past I have always laid it right on the table on the first date. I've made somewhat a test of character. If I get a phone call after they have learned about my status, then they have passed. If I do not receive a phone call, then they have failed and they are labeled as ignorant. Logically, I know that this test is unfair because I realize that people are afraid of the unknown and letting your feelings get involved with someone that could possibly die is very scary. This is why I wrote the article in last months' issue. For me, it was therapeutic and I now can assume that everyone I encounter already knows my status.

Recently, over the Labor Day weekend, I was at a friend's house and a guy literally begged my friend to give me his phone number. I took his information even though I knew that he was not my type. But, never leaving a stone unturned in my search for love, I called him. We had a nice conversation, not as nice as another one that I had during the same weekend, but nice nonetheless. We spoke a few times on the phone. Then one night I invited him over. For some reason he seemed nervous to me and I asked him if he was. He assured me that he was not nervous stating that he just had work on his mind. During the course of our conversation the topic of HIV came up and I disclosed my status to him. He seemed somewhat stunned but tried to be a good sport about it. He asked questions and even offered a story about someone that he dated in the past that was "positive". Prior to this evening we made dinner plans for the next night at 8pm. Before he left, I asked him "given all that you now know about me, do you still want to go to dinner"? He said, "yes why wouldn't I"? Four weeks later and I still have not heard from him. A few nights ago I saw him at a club. Of course my pride and that ignorant label would not allow me to say hello. The truth of the matter is that even though I knew that person was not my type, I still feel somewhat hurt and rejected. This is not the first time that a situation like this has occurred, but it is definitely not the norm for my life.

This year God has blessed me with several beautiful men, each of them special to me in their own way. Most of these men I disclosed my status to right away. Amazingly, to all of these very special people, my status did not matter but because of distance (none of these people lived in my city) the encounters fizzled or turned into great friendships. I do not claim to be psychic or anything but I think that the reason that my status did not matter to these guys is because they realized that they question how love comes. After all tomorrow is not promised to anyone.

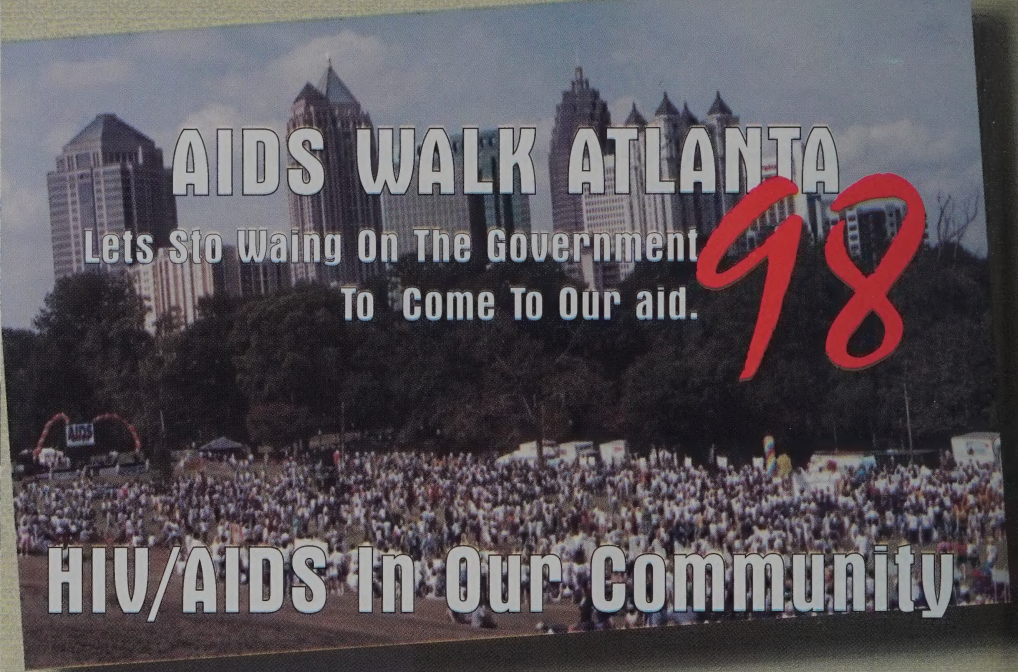
Sometimes I find myself thinking about all the people that I've dated in the past and I wonder what if? I think about all the unconditional love that I have thrown away. I don't get to immersed in it because if I did, I would be a basket case. These periods of reflections are just enough to keep me receptive to the love in my future. So I don't miss out again. It is clear that I don't have all the answers. What I do know is that I am ready for love to enter my life. Ready to share my life and love with someone that is mature and responsible enough to give me the only kind of love - unconditional love. Until this happens, I remain happy, single and dating.

BY SCOTT BOGAN

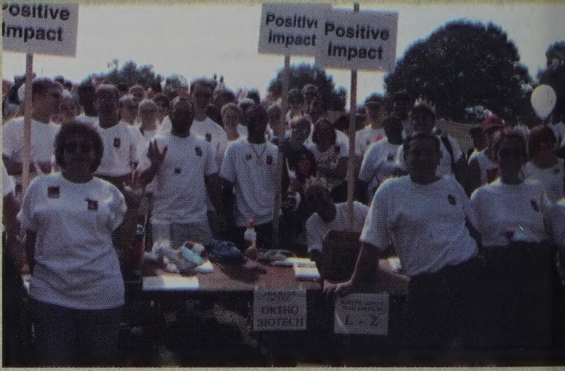
AIDS WALK ATLANTA 98

Lets Sto Waing On The Government To Come To Our aid.

HIV/AIDS In Our Community



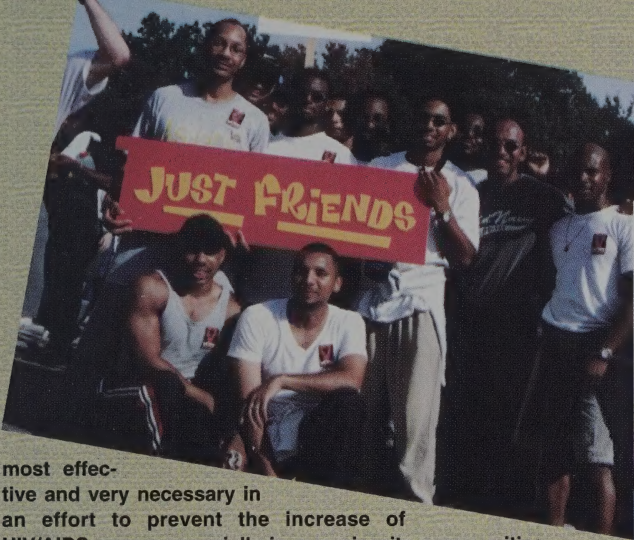
This year, hundreds of thousands of people all over the country participated in walks and campaigns illustrating their support in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Los Angles had its 10 kilometer fundraising walkathon on September 27, Atlanta at a similar walkathon on October 16, and there have been countless others throughout the country. With the assistance of local businesses, national corporate sponsors and concerned individuals, HIV/AIDS organization raised millions of dollars to help in the fight against this disease. It is this type on activity that has proven to be

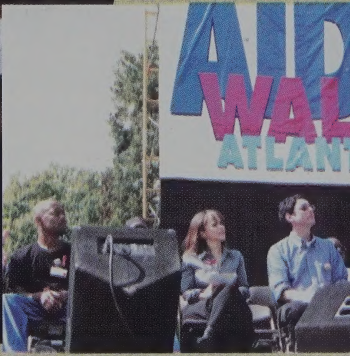

Positive Impact
Positive Impact
Positive Impact
ORTHO BIOTECH

Participants at the recent AIDS Walk Atlanta

Mayor Bill Campbell
Rosie Perez
T.C. Carson

Clikque's Staff Member, Nestor Doing It With Rosie Perez





most effective and very necessary in an effort to prevent the increase of HIV/AIDS cases; especially in our minority communities. We can't and should not wait for the assistance of the government.

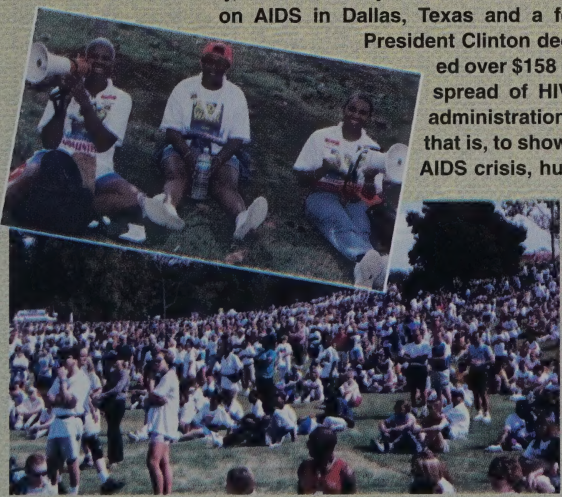
While the overall national cases of AIDS deaths are on the decline, reports reveal that the number of minority (African-American, Hispanic and women) AIDS cases are on the rise. A Few months ago, The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) added the voices of it's 3000 member organizations to that of the call from the Congressional Black Caucus in an attempt to have President Clinton declare a "State of Emergency" on HIV and AIDS among African-Americans and other minority groups.

The NMAC states that there are between 240,000 and 325,000 African-Americans infected with HIV, and of that estimate, approximately 92,200 are living with AIDS. An alarming 1 in 50 African-American men and 1 in 60 African-American women are infected with HIV. Studies conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reveal that every hour, seven people are infect and of that number, three are African-American.

In a country that leads in HIV/AIDS research and care, African-Americans are less likely to know their HIV status; more likely to be diagnosed late in disease progression; less likely to have access to doctors with experience treating HIV/AIDS; and less likely to have access to new and promising combination drug therapies.

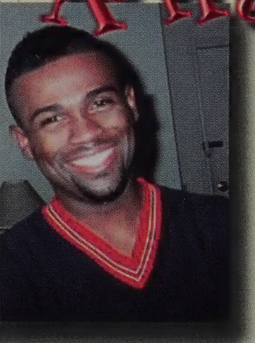
Data obtained from the AIDS Survival Project in Atlanta reveals that African-Americans account for 35% of all AIDS cases, yet only make up 11% of the US population. In Georgia, African-Americans account for 59% of all AIDS cases, however, African-American make up only 27% of the state population.

Conveniently, on Wednesday, October 28th, two days before the United States Conference on AIDS in Dallas, Texas and a few days before the November elections, President Clinton declared a "State of Emergency" and allocated over $158 million to minority organization fighting the spread of HIV and AIDS. While the President and his administration waited for the best opportunity, political that is, to show their support and concern for the Minority AIDS crisis, hundred have since gotten infected with this dreaded disease that has already taken so many of our friends and loved-ones. I long for the day when a politician's actions are motivated by mere compassion and concern for its citizens, rather than the possibility of attaining votes.



By Dwight Powell
Owner/Publisher, Clikque Magazine.

A Husband, A House, & A Dog



by Todd Edwards

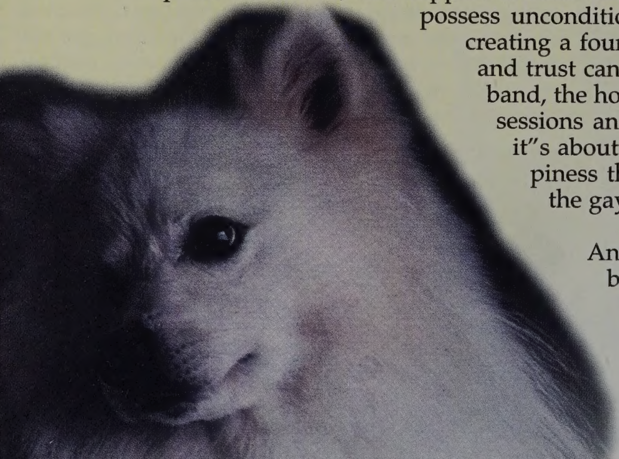
A dedicated spouse, a beautiful home and perhaps a dog (french poodle) is the ultimate achievement for an all American Colored Gal. Who are we kidding? The Lexus GS 400, the grand sissy edition, will suffice. On a serious note, companionship from that of a soul mate, a good man, can add to the luster of life, hence nurturing the traditional idea of family.

In that search for the special one, we need a man who will demonstrate such qualities as love, support, and loyalty. One who knows that love is not a feeling but rather an action. The use of the word "unconditional" associated with love is not necessarily valid, instead all commitments or acts of love and or loyalty are "conditional", that is, if you fuck your husbands best friend you might want to condition yourself to have your dick cut off. That special one should not be identified with titles, such as, Doctors, Lawyers, or CPA"s, nor should your search begin in a bar, club, or spa. If one contends to seek out traditional things that create stability, i.e., the husband, the house, and the dog, then traditional behavior in your search for that stability could possibly start with meeting that special someone through established friendships, organizations, or forums that support monogamous relationships.

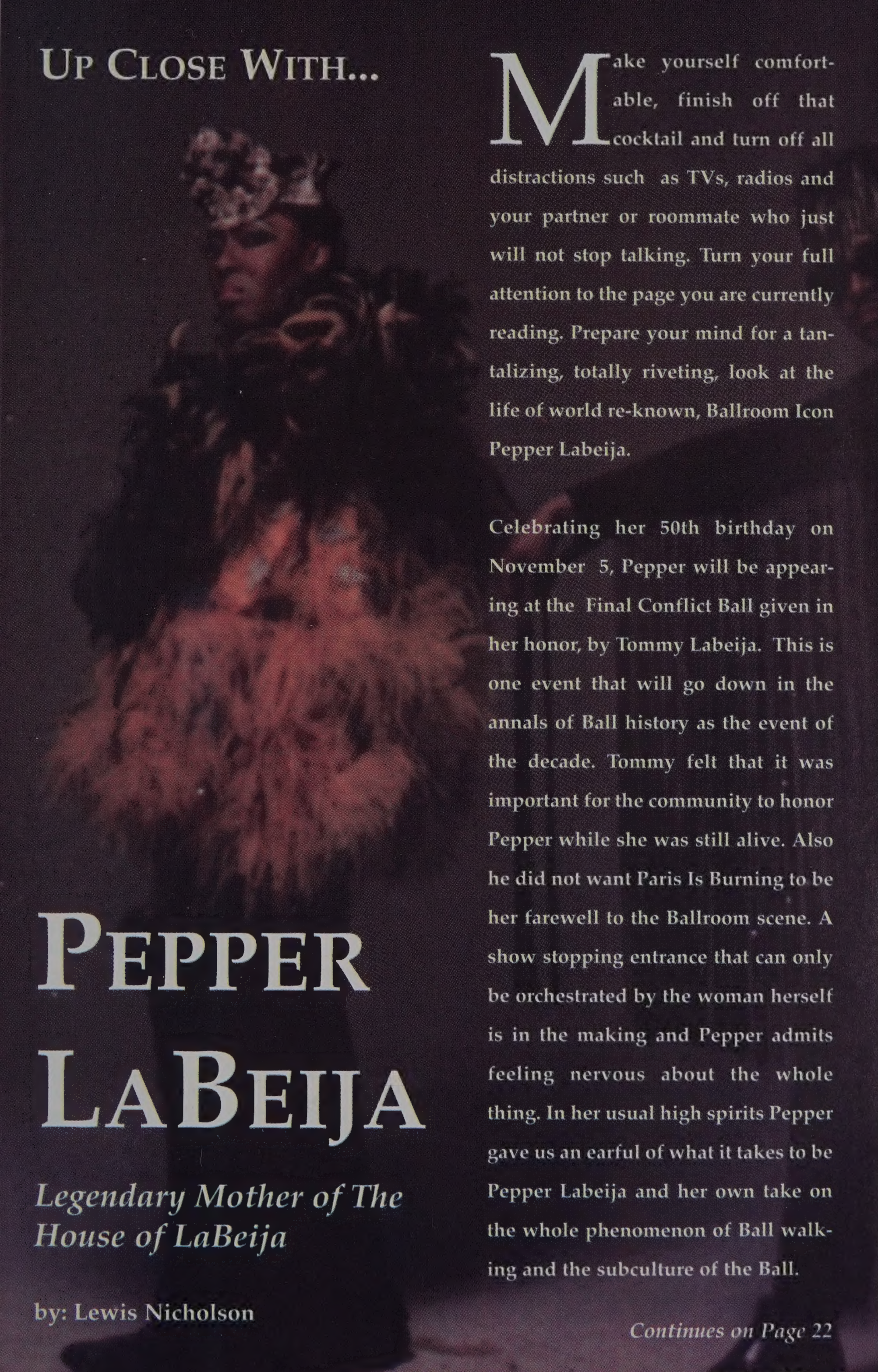
One can work towards creating a foundation that will support their goals via education, or steady employment, the type of industriousness that creates stability within ourselves so that we can offer something more in our quest for companionship. Searching for that special one, and calling him your husband versus taking on the challenge of living with that significant other can give new meaning to the so called term "unconditional."

Creating a foundation within the home that you share with your partner requires trust, love, and support of each other. More importantly one should possess unconditional love for themselves prior to creating a foundation, a home, where such love and trust can be established. You see, the husband, the house, and the dog is not about possessions and or material things. No instead it"s about recognizing another level of happiness that is not often duplicated within the gay community.

And by the way, the dog is used to bite the asses of bitches who intend to disrupt the happiness, time and energy required to create such a foundation.



UP CLOSE WITH...



PEPPER LABEIJA

Legendary Mother of The House of LaBeija

by: Lewis Nicholson

Make yourself comfortable, finish off that cocktail and turn off all distractions such as TVs, radios and your partner or roommate who just will not stop talking. Turn your full attention to the page you are currently reading. Prepare your mind for a tantalizing, totally riveting, look at the life of world re-known, Ballroom Icon Pepper Labeija.

Celebrating her 50th birthday on November 5, Pepper will be appearing at the Final Conflict Ball given in her honor, by Tommy Labeija. This is one event that will go down in the annals of Ball history as the event of the decade. Tommy felt that it was important for the community to honor Pepper while she was still alive. Also he did not want Paris Is Burning to be her farewell to the Ballroom scene. A show stopping entrance that can only be orchestrated by the woman herself is in the making and Pepper admits feeling nervous about the whole thing. In her usual high spirits Pepper gave us an earful of what it takes to be Pepper Labeija and her own take on the whole phenomenon of Ball walking and the subculture of the Ball.

Continues on Page 22

PEPPER LABEIJA *from Page 21*

House of LaBeija

House of Mugler

Born William Jackson in New York City, Pepper Labeija grew up in Augusta GA and North Carolina. Pepper attended both public and catholic schools in these cities. Pepper is the father of two grown children, a 23 year old son and a 20 year old daughter both of whom "appears to be straight" he says with a chuckle. Many will remember him from his glory days of Paris is Burning but Peppers better days were way ahead of that movie appearance. As was the story then, it remains in tact today that his mother still has problems with his being gay and refuses to discuss it.

During our talk Pepper kept reiterating the importance of a good education and having a career. He said it was necessary to know that the Balls are a side line event and not a career as these trophies cannot pay the phone bill, nor are they accepted at the grocery store. He says there are some very successful children of hers who make her real proud, but AIDA(AIDS) is killing off most of the kids and that they need to educate themselves. He showed genuine concern for the state of AIDS in the black community and wanted people to know that it is real and that we all must be careful.

Pepper Labeija(the illusion) the Queen mother was born in the 1960s when Gay pageants were a big thing in New York City. She did a few of them with her idol and then founder of the house of Labeija, Crystal. But those pageants she says were for the white girls. No ,matter how good the black girls were we would make finals but never win. Not much has changed since then.

However winning was always important and so they started their own competition which they called a Ball, because it was designed to look like a grand affair in the fashion of how rich royals go to balls. It was an event for Drag queens only. Their goal was to mesmerize the audience, all dolled up in big stylish outfits looking like a million bucks trimmed with feathers and things and looking totally glamorous. The best dressed girl would walk away with the grand prize of the night. And so the Balls began. "Dorian Corey and I would give the biggest and best Balls back in the days," she says. I introduced Dorian to the Ballroom world and she was amazing at it. Speaking of amazing, one has to see Pepper Labeija walk a runway to get a true picture of amazing. No one can create the illusion of beauty and riches the way Pepper can without spending the kind of money on costume that the kids today spend. As Junior Labeija once put it, "Get off the floor and make room for Pepper Labeija," so we took our seats and gave Pepper the floor. Pepper spoke candidly about her life, her accomplishments and downfalls and her hopes for the future.

Pepper says the balls were born out of the pageants that the black girls could not win out on Fire Island. Early on, in the Ballroom scene, the dance form called vogueing was introduced and trust us it was not by Madonna. Vogueing began with Pepper Labeija, Paris dupree, Pierre La Wong, and

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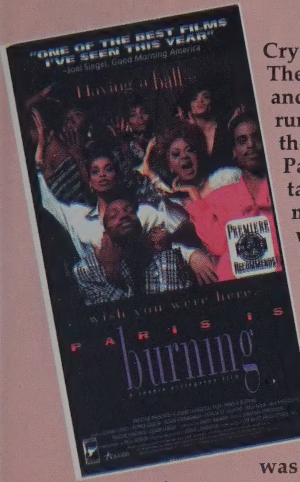
PEPPER LABEIJA *from Page 22*


"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS I'VE SEEN THIS YEAR"
–Joel Siegel, Good Morning America
Having a ball
PREMIERE RECOMMENDS
wish you were here
PARIS IS
burning

Crystal Labeija. They used to dance and walk down the runway as if it was the only runway in Paris and at certain opportune moments, they would strike a pose and keep that pose for a dramatic moment, until it was time for a new one that had onlookers gagging. "Back then it was all about the posing as we were copying the models pose from Vogue magazine." Today vogueing barely resembles its origins as the kids Pepper says, are now doing gymnastics and not Vogueing. The emphasis is no longer on the pose, but how well you can contort your body. Evolution is life and that brings about change and change is good so Pepper is not mad at the new kids. It is just different she says.

Having had a Ballroom career that spanned three decades, Pepper has seen it all, but the kids still bring more surprises. Labeija, she says was one of the original houses and is truly legendary. Having won too many trophies to remember, Pepper Labeija feels that life has been good to her. She says she has accomplished most of the things she set out to do but wishes she had made more strides in the Heterosexual world.

On the issue of Paris Is Burning she says, " at first I felt that it was a negative thing, but I have changed my mind. I got a lot of exposure form it and worldwide recognition. People from china, Europe and as far as Australia have come up to me in the street with nothing but praise." Pepper left the ball world after three decades of reigning as the unstoppable Mother of all mothers because, of her doctors' orders. "Being here was more important than leaving a legacy she says." But whether or not Pepper walks another Ball, her legacy will live on forever. As the legendary Stewart Ebony puts it, " Pepper is a true legend, she has put not just herself on the map, but others as well. People get tens just by associating with Pepper, she played no games and always created chaos on the floor. She is known all over and I think of her as an icon legend. The house of Labeija is making a come back and like Pepper said in the movie, New York city is wrapped up in being Labeija. Interesting to note, is the fact that most of the people who are legends in the Ballroom today started out as Labeijas or got their start in a house that was formed by a former Labeija. Pepper refers to the Labeija house as the School of Hard Knocks where the kids are schooled in the proper way to demolish a Ballroom floor. Legends such as André Mizrahi, Stewart Ebony and Eric Bazaar, now Hasaan Allure were all Labeijas at some point in their careers. If you get a chance to see any of these people tear up a runway, then you would have had but a small glimpse of the great legacy that Pepper Labeija left behind, when she walked away gracefully form the Ballroom scene. Speaking on the issue of what is or who is Legendary in the Ballroom scene, Pepper gave us some indication of what legendary is, as she remembers it to be. From her definition of longevity, and ability to devour the opponent and win in rare form, the houses of Revlon, Ebony, Mizrahi, Milan and Dupree would be examples of Legendary houses. Some Legendary individuals would be, Hasaan Allure, Stewart Ebony, Danielle Revlon, André Mizrahi, Duchess La Wong, David Xtravaganza and Whitney Mugler . There are others but these are the ones that came up during our little chat.

Pepper will make her final Ball appearance at the Final Conflict Ball in New York on November 7, 1998 which promises to be a real treat. Pepper Labeija was born a man and remains that way today as he is against sex changes. He says it is very traumatic and makes for a difficult adjustment. The newly made woman has no history and has to make one up and remember it as straight folks always want to know when you went to school and who you knew etc. and this traps the new girls as it is hard to keep your story straight. Also she says it is hard to look like a woman and still think like a gay boy. Pepper Labeija the Icon will always be reigning, if not in our hearts and minds her legacy will always be present in Ball history. Her mark will always be remembered by all the people she has helped and the kids she has raised , forever. We at Clikque salute the Legendary Queen mother and Ballroom Icon Pepper Labeija and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

Note: the words her and his, are used to refer to Pepper Labeija in this story to indicate the Ballroom Illusion and the real Person respectively.

This Month
Rascal
Wednesday
Nov 25th
Woman of the Year
Saturday
Nov 21st
Pajama Party
POLO RALPH LAUREN
POLO RALPH
Sunday
Nov 22nd
Niesha Dupree
Sunday
Nov 8th
All Male Show
RASCALS
Houstons' Hot Spot!

Presents

A Grover
Fortenberry
Producrtion

NOVEMBER 8TH

ALL MALE SHOW - The Men of Texas welcomes Mr. Al Dupree from Atlanta for one night olny. Plus the men of Texas: Demetrium Domino, Chauncey Davenport, Montel Alexander,Jacobe Ross and Noddles

NOVEMBER 21ST

ALL NIGHT PAJAMA PARTY . Open til 4am. Cash for the sexiest male or female pajama plus hot male dancers.

NOVEMBER 22ND

THE RASCALS UNTOUCHABLES with special guest the Legenday Niesha Dupree from Atlanta.

NOVEMBER 25TH

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

For Ladies Only. Come and see who will be the next woman of the year... it could be you. Categories: Evening and talent. Entertainment by Ms. Kachelle Syon and Ms. Rascals 1998-99 Trillions Devereaux. Host & emcee: Grover Fortenberry. Contest begins: 10:30. Call 713-942-CLUB for mor info.

Sundays In
Novenber
Rascals
Untouchables
Review

Thursdays
Nov:
Talent Contest

INCOGNITO

THE CLUB

MONDAYS

Hot Male & Female Strippers With Hostess & Emcee The One & Only

Cookie LaCook Doors Open At 10PM, Showtime: 11PM

Drink Specials .50¢ Draft $2 Margarita

SATURDAYS

Hot Dance

Party Night

Beginning

November 7th

FRIDAYS

Houston's Only Girls Night Out Featuring The Best Entertainers In The Region with Hostess

Cookie LaCook Doors Open At 10PM, Showtime: 11PM

Drink Specials $1 Wells Until 11PM $2 Margarita

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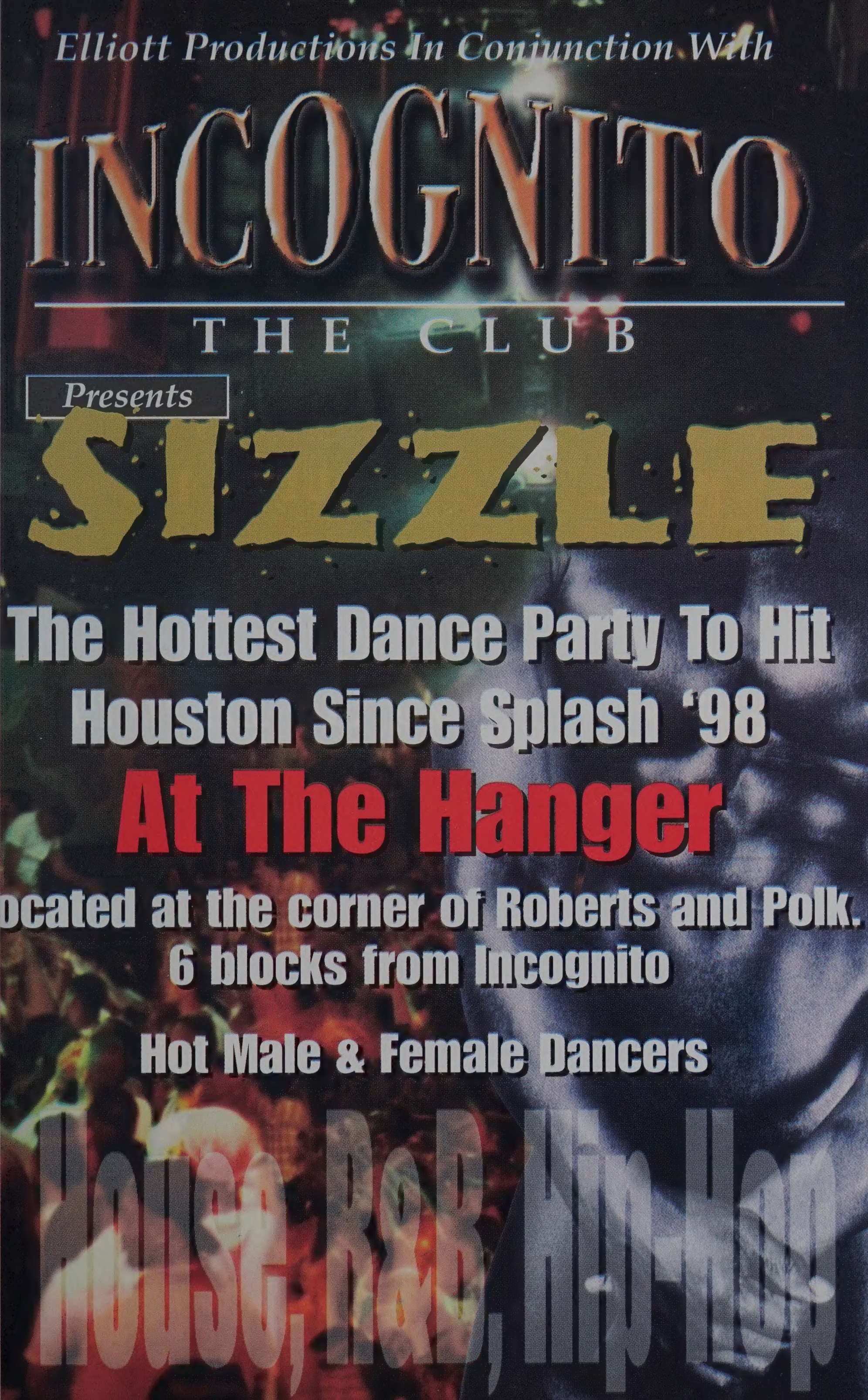

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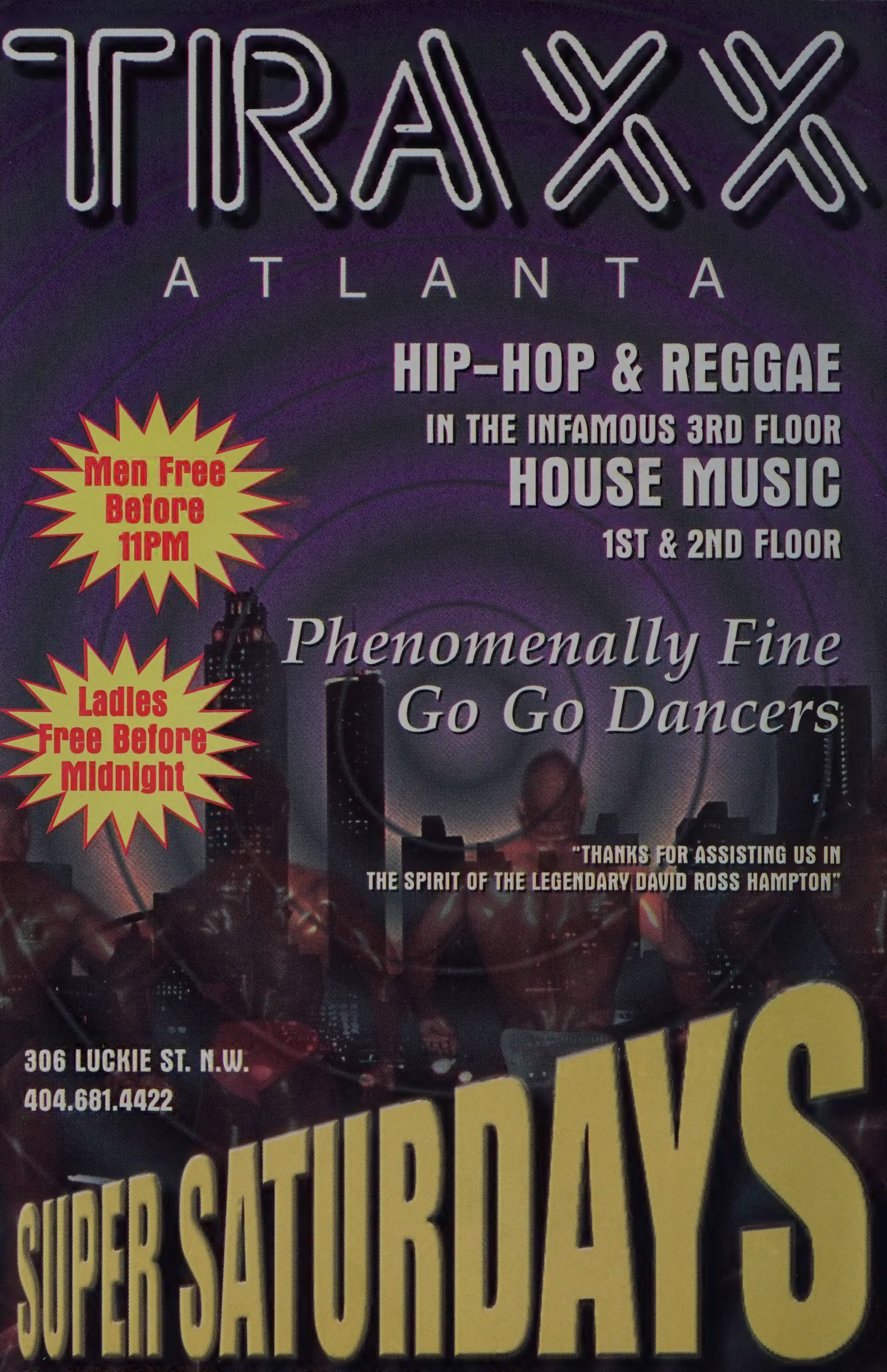
Hot Male & Female Dancers

House, R&B, Hip-Hop



TRAXX

ATLANTA

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IN THE INFAMOUS 3RD FLOOR

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Men Free Before 11PM

Phenomenally Fine Go Go Dancers

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"THANKS FOR ASSISTING US IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LEGENDARY DAVID ROSS HAMPTON"

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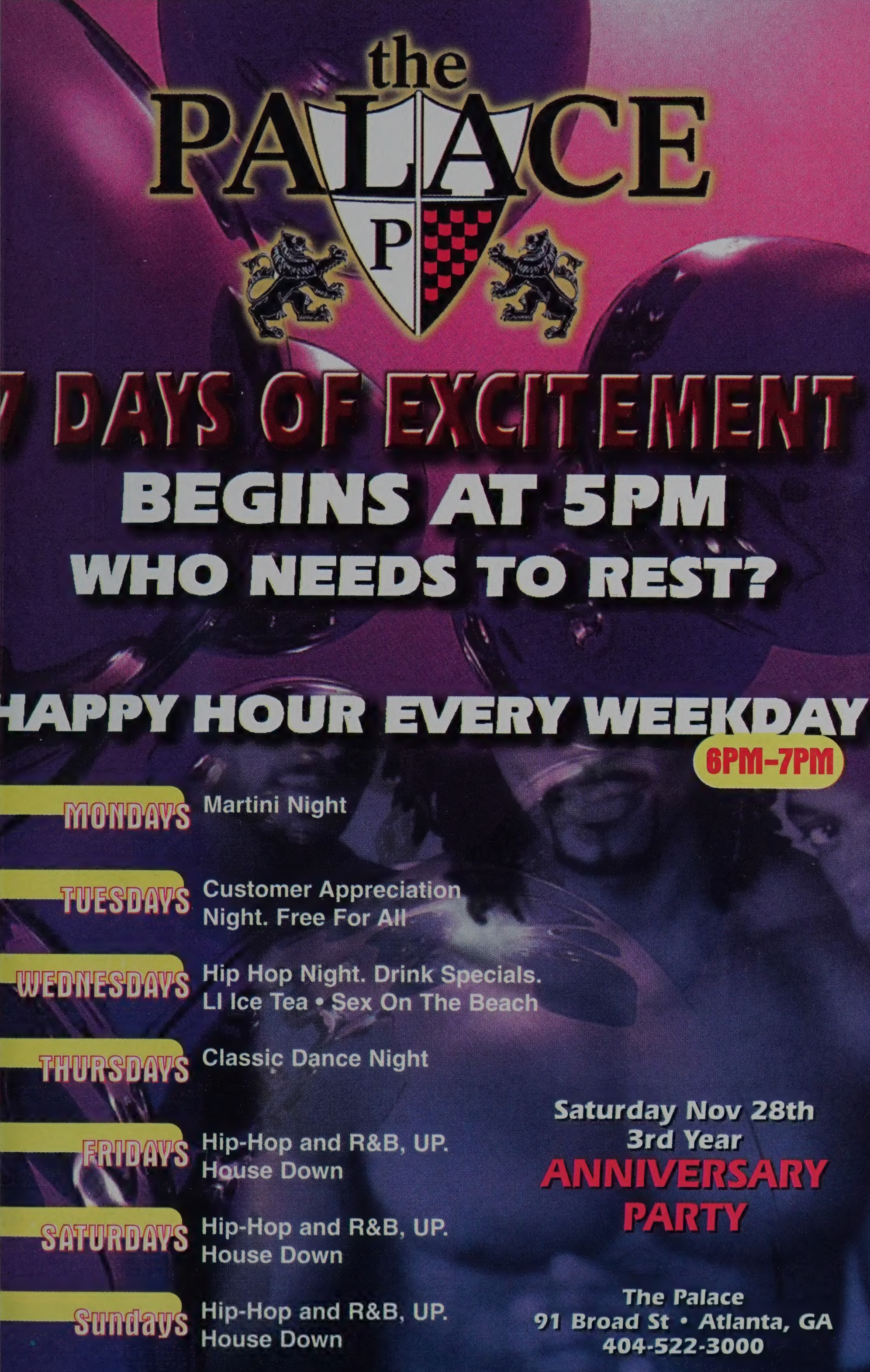
SUPER SATURDAYS


the
PALACE

7 DAYS OF EXCITEMENT
BEGINS AT 5PM
WHO NEEDS TO REST?

HAPPY HOUR EVERY WEEKDAY
6PM-7PM

MONDAYS	Martini Night
TUESDAYS	Customer Appreciation Night. Free For All
WEDNESDAYS	Hip Hop Night. Drink Specials. LI Ice Tea • Sex On The Beach
THURSDAYS	Classic Dance Night
FRIDAYS	Hip-Hop and R&B, UP. House Down
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Sundays	Hip-Hop and R&B, UP. House Down

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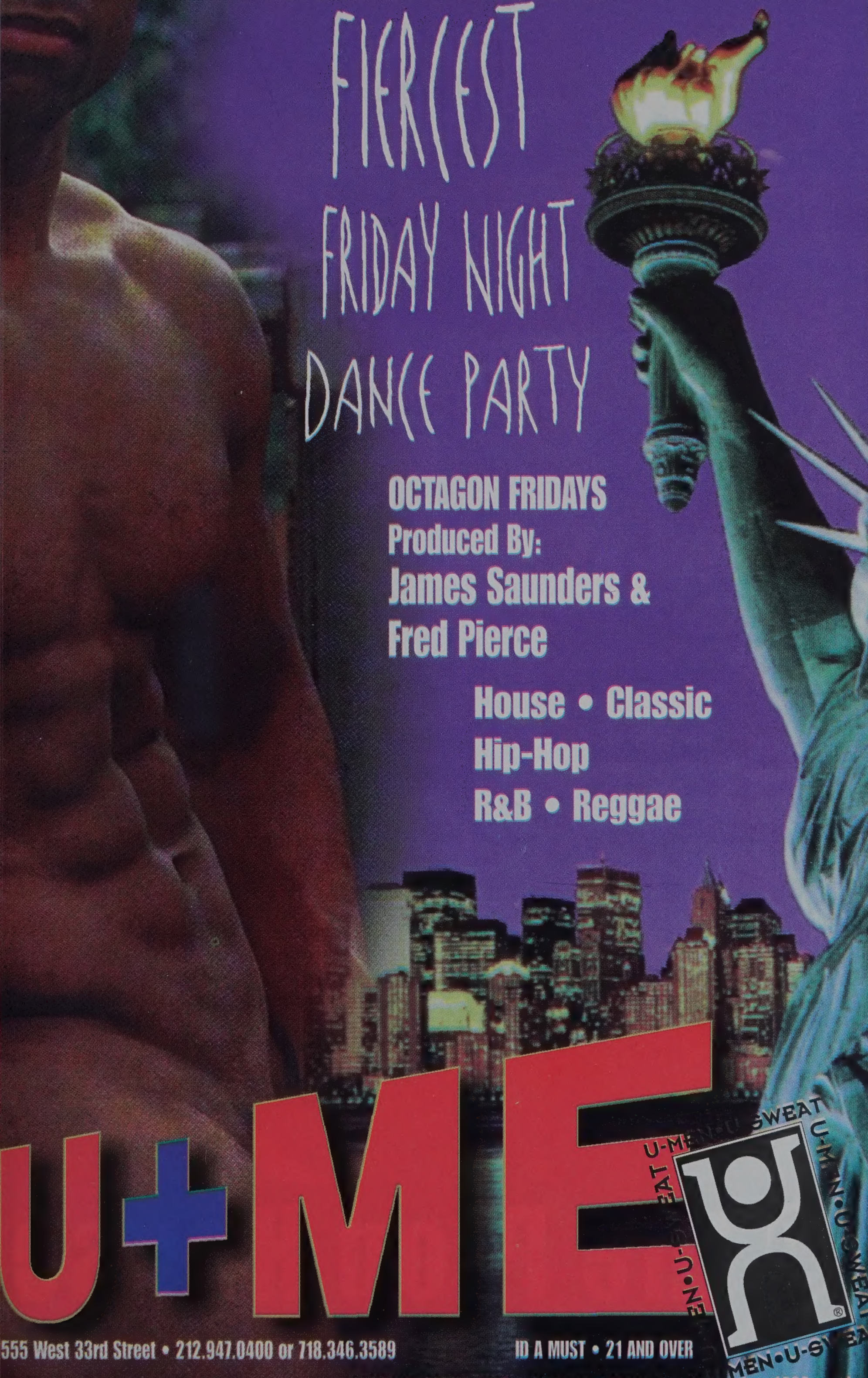

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2. *Can I buy you a drink, or do you just want the money*
3. *I may not be Fred Flintstone, but I bet I can make your bed rock.*
4. *I may not be the best looking person here, but I'm the only one talking to you.*
5. *Yo Baby, you be my Dairy Queen, I'll be your Burger King, you treat me right, and I'll do it your way.*
6. *Excuse me, do you have your phone number, I seem to have lost mine.*
7. *I can't find my puppy, can you help me find him? I think he went into this cheap motel room.*
8. *I'm new in town, could I have directions to your house.*
9. *If you were a new hamburger at McDonald's, you would be McGorgeous.*
10. ***You might not be the best looking person here, but beauty is only a light switch away.***

The Lil Poet's Corner

ONE LOVE

When a man loves a man, like
himself: The highest idea of self.
The earth open and the heaven
rejoices at the rapture shared.

When a man loves a man, the
thunderous applause of the universe
confirms it's only natural.

When a man loves a man, like a
brother: Black power takes on a whole
new level of depth and strength.
For every problem there is a higher
solution and the latter always wins,
when a man loves a man in the
center of one love.

By Damone M. Burchette

WWW.
brotha.com/clikquem
GET INTO IT!

SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO CLIKQUE

If you have something that you would like to share with the rest of us, please submit it to:

e-mail: clikquem@aol.com

Mail: 931 Monroe Dr. Ste 102-279
Atlanta, GA 30308

www.brotha.com/clikquem

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 1998

"Divas in the Desert" Black Gay Pride Weekend Phoenix, AZ

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Creating Change Conference, Pittsburgh, PA 202-332-6483

DECEMBER 1998

Dec. 2National POZ Life Expo, Washington, DC contact Miguel @ 212-242-2163, ext. 231

JANUARY 1999

Jan. 15 -Bayard Rustin Rally, Atlanta, GA contact Second Sunday Discussion Group@ AID Atlanta office, Craig Washington 404-872-0600

Jan. 15 — Martin Luther King March and National Birthday Observance Atlanta, GA 404-524-1956

FEBRUARY 1999

Feb. — Greater Chicago Committee's 1999 Bayard Rustin Awards DuSable Museum of African-Amercian History 312-670-9660

Feb.12-15 — National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum (NBLGLF) 12th Annual Conference- Atlanta, GA 202-483-6786 Confrnce98@aol.com, wwwnblglf.com

Feb. — Blackboyz Productions' Luv Fest, Chicago 773-918-5139

Feb. 26,28 — 8th National Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Writer' Conference "OutWrite 99" Boston Park Plaza Hotel. 617-262-6969, http://www.bsef.org

Feb. - Ajamu Collective Black History Month Celebration Dallas,TX

MARCH 1999

March — National AIDS update Conference, contact krebs@conv.com www.nauc.com

March — African American Lesbian Gay Alliance (AALGA) Awards Banquet Houston, TX; contact mensahel@sprynet.com

APRIL 1999

April 3-4 -Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Unity Conference-312-409-4917

April - International Bisexual Conference-Boston 617-424-9595, www.biconf.org

April 12 -National Organization of Women (NOW) - Lesbian Rights Summit, Washington DC 202-331-0066 x-771, www.now.org

April 25 -5th National Gay & Lesbian Business Expo, Jacob Javits Convention Center, NYC 800-243-9774

April -Connecticut Health Summit for Gays and Lesbians of African Descent Hartford, CT

MAY 1999

May -9th annual Bayard Rustin Breakfast- Sponsored by AIDS Action, for info 617-450-1644
May 27,30 -Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Memorial Day Weekend Washington D.C. www.blackpride.com

May 30 -At The Beach (ATB) Memorial Day Celebration, LA, CA 310-216-5858

May -"Splash" Weekend Houston, TX

May -African-American Gay & Lesbian Empowerment Summit,Palm Springs, CA

JUNE 1999

June 25,27 -Atlanta Pride Festival Atlanta, GA 404-876-3700 www.atlpride.org

June 29 — "1999 Black Cruise" 2nd Annual African - American Cruise Until July 3 Celebrating Gay men & Lesbians 888-922-2916, magicmarc@aol.com

June — Capital Pride Festival Washington, DC

June — North Carolina Pride Weekend Chapel Hill, NC

June — Black Church & Sexuality Conf. Howard University Washington, DC

June — Churches Respond To: A Call to Care Philadelphia, PA

JULY 1999

July 1-5 -At The Beach (ATB) TBA 213-969-1619

July — "Hotter Than July" Weekend Detroit, MI 313-438-0704

July — ADODI New York Summer Retreat

July — National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) Conference

July — NAACP Convention

July — "Voices of Faith" Conference Denver, CO

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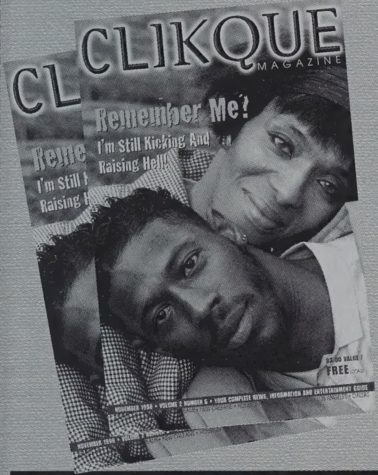
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- ✯ What do you think about this magazine?
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- ✯ What improvements would you like to see?
- ✯ What must we include to keep you wanting more?

MY BEAT

BY: B. GRAFF

Hello, Clikque readers! My name is B.Graff and I'd like to welcome you to ***My Beat,*** a monthly report on the latest releases and news from the ***wonderful world of house music***. In time, this column will feature interviews on up and coming artists, so stay tuned for future developments.

One of the most common criticisms against house is that it's only for the club; that those pounding beats and booming bass lines are too repetitive for "normal" listening enjoyment. It's also said that there are no real house artists, only anonymous studio voices who sing over tracks. To the inexperienced or prejudiced listener, this may be true. But anyone who approaches the music with open ears will find not only that house translates as well in the living room as it does on the dance floor.

This month, we call attention to three recent albums from people whose unique creative vision clearly marks them as artists who deserve your love.

The first comes from ***Kim English, a gospel-trained diva*** who has been thrilling the children with a string of club hits for the last couple of years. After months of delays, her debut album ***Higher Things*** (Nervous Records) is finally out and it does not disappoint.

Some records make that instant connection with you through the emotion of the vocalist or the intricacy of the groove. Luckily for us, Higher Things is filled with cuts which immediately announce to you, ***"I am fierce!"*** The opening cut, the title song, is a statement of positivity and motivation that will help you through those rough times. The remaining 9 tracks cover topics like relationships ("Missing You"), the joys of clubbing ("Night Life"), and staying true to yourself ("Learn 2 Luv"), all done superbly and with an intensity that lets you know that English really feels what she sings. ***Miss Thing even takes us to church on "Supernatural***," a song that has ironically caused drama because of its spiritual message. The only deviation from the club beat is her rendition of Anita Baker's "Been So Long." It doesn't fit in with the rest of the songs on the disc, but it's still better than most of the r & b getting radio play these days. This is a record that is oozing with quality and anyone who listens to it will come away refreshed by English's positive message. Rush out and get it!

Next is ***Scott Grooves, a Detroit keyboardist*** who originally worked with Inner City ("Good Life"). For his album ***Pieces of a Dream*** (Soma Records) he's enlisted a wide range of guests, including ***Roy Ayers and Parliament-Funkadelic, which gives the album a Quincy Jones***-esque feel, where the one constant is the producer.

Throughout the disc, the laid-back nature of the songs gives off the vibe of a jazz album, only with house beats. With titles like "The Sax Speaks, " "New Day" and "Feels So Good," you know the emphasis here is on soothing instrumental grooves. Of the two songs that feature vocals, one is Ayers' cover of the classic jazz-funk song "Expansions" while the other features a diva scatting to the beat and is appropriately called "The Scat Groove." ***The album is definitely geared towards home listening; the depth of the instrumentation would probably be lost in a club*** full of writhing bodies. Don't let that description stop you from giving Grooves a listen, though. ***Your ears will be highly rewarded for the effort.***

Finally, props must be given to **Blaze**, the legendary production team responsible for some of house's most magical moments. This vastly underrated group has been making jewels since the 1980s, only to watch a series of less talented, more hyped-up people take their glory. Their recent release is simply called Basic Blaze (Slip N Slide Records) and is an ***excellent showcase for their brand of soulful house music***.

You may already be familiar with their song ***"Lovelee Dae,"*** as it's been pumped across dancefloors since 1997. The remainder of the album is highlighted by deep house rhythms that show more than a touch of jazz influence. If you like meaningful vocals, the songs "Never Can Get Away" and "Wishing You Were Here" cannot be missed. "Sacred Sex" starts off with a definition of the term, and then the beats kick in and make you want some for yourself. Most devastating of all is the inspiration for this column, "My Beat," a piece of chunky house that explains the historical link between African-Americans and drums, dismissing all who can't relate with the question, "can you dance to my beat?" ***Racially uplifting songs*** seem to be hard to come by these days, and this one clearly sets a standard for others to achieve.

That's all from this end of the speaker. Again, this space will become bigger and better with time, and ***I appreciate all your comments***. You may send them to me: via clikquem@aol.com. Until next time, remember that the feet may dance the steps, but only the soul can dance!

Healing is within our grasp!

Continued From Page 16

in our selves, legacy, empowerment and community - as a people. Having this capacity is key to the [White] gay/lesbian community's success, political power and vigilance.

Sure, it is heartbreaking to learn that a young person, Sheppard, was brutally attacked and left hung on a fence to die. Still, admittedly, I, like many in the Black community am still reeling from the endless battery of cruel, gruesome and brutal death of Blacks on a grand scale by hate-crime murders. I like most Americans did not know Matt Sheppard. I do not assume he gave a damn about the life and deaths of people not White (I also do not assume otherwise). But, if I use the [White] gay/lesbian community's attitudes and behavior toward African-American life in general as a gauge to judge attitudes possibly held by Matt I would be a fool to marginalize for Matt my on-going grief perpetually sustained by the horrific (even more horrific than Matt's) deaths of Black people.

It is important to realize that the source of our struggles, disorientation and apparent inability to trust, love and build-up one another successfully as a people/community is rooted in that we are still severely impacted by internalized oppression, institutionalized delusions of White supremacy, White racist thinking and White cultural biases in this country and media. Though it is humiliating to admit, and painful to face, the legacy of slavery is still with many of us, so much so, t appears we do not even know anymore when we are being disrespected. Premature, gruesome, and senseless death has been a regular part of Black life for centuries. We have learned to passively attempt to pray probems away, while other communities actively say "No More" using actics born from the blood of our more politically active past. Our endency to endure has fostered a culture of complacency occurring in the wake of mass death, dysfunction and assault on Black people. The Million Man March, a celebration of life and culture, and acknowledgment of the spiritual dearth and psychic conditions Black males endure, a movement galvanized and activated by us, as a result, significantly reduced Black on Black violent crime, in particular gang violence in our midst. As powerful as this was it seems many are still too distracted to understand the power of self-reliance, self-respect and self-love. We do have the power to change things, but if a people do not understand why regardless of their intentions they keep winding up back at square one, they will continue their vicious cycle. Understanding why we do what we do is important. Recognizing and challenging when being disrespected is important, like the [White] gay/lesbian community did regarding Matt Sheppard, activity which was taught to them by our ancestors during the Black Power and civil rights movements - before invention of the jheri curl, the hair weave and a whitened Michael Jackson. It ain't too late for us.

Imperative to our success is acknowledging that institutionally we are oppressed, and to challenge this by being collaboratively and individually vigilant against oppression and not normalizing and tolerating it. We once had this spirit. The [White] gay/lesbian community has it now. When the New York Times mentioned a legacy of activism among gays and lesbians that became successful enough to create complacency, they were really talking about homosexual Whites. The [White] gay/lesbian movement is not a movement on behalf of Black homosexuals and bisexuals. We need to stop denying this and gain the self-respect to build our own movement that resonates with our legacy, struggle and culture. Black homosexuals and bisexuals face a growing suicide rate, failed organizational efforts on a national and local level, monthly publications that die every year and a lingering HIV/AIDS epidemic. In the midst of all this, little has been created to support and affirm Black SGL, bisexual and gay/lesbian identified youth. Still, many Black, Latino and Asian homosexuals, hungry for sexual acceptance somewhere, some who in addition to the conflict of being homosexual in Euro-Christianized communities of color, also contend with internalized oppression, believing they have no choice but to endure racist sexual exploitation and marginalization to attain gay [White] pride.

We are better than this Sisters and Brothers. Many of us are finally growing to see gay/lesbian and White homosexuals as synonymous, while searching for more culturally, inclusive and affirming means to claim ourselves - thus the term same-gender-loving (SGL) and the growing same-gender-loving (SGL) movement. Among us are people who realize, through the Matt Sheppard incident and before, that the primary and possibly the only benefactors of the gay rights movement are White homosexuals. Before there was "Gay pride" there was Black Pride, our ancestors taught America civil disobedience and social change activism. The White gay community relearned because of Shephard's death, the struggle is not over, and in acknowledging that the [White] lesbian/gay community was in the streets. Yes, we should take time to have fun, celebrate ourselves and shop, but, still, the body count indicates our struggle was never over. When we begin rebuilding ourselves in our own image, reclaiming our self-respect and vigilance, and of most importance unlearn our internalized oppression and begin to recognize it in ourselves and lovingly assist each other in working through it, we will then gain the clarity needed to effectively resist oppression, build sustaining support and political systems that will squelch the mass numbers of Black death across sexuality that still occur in America.

ASK Bianca

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,1200 Mckinney St. Suite # 411-101, Houston Texas 77010. Or email her C/o Clikquem@aol.com

Hello gyrlls and boys,

Bianca Alexis Constantine Buchannan is the happiest gyrll in the world. My contract with this magazine is about to expire and I have a few offers to take my column elsewhere. If the Publishers of this rag cannot match the best of my other offers, it is hasta la vista Baby. You, my dears have nothing to worry about as I will leave a forwarding address. Maybe in my next column, the gorgeousness which is my face may appear next to your letters, just like Abbeys. I love Clikque Magazine but with the new house and Killers new Porsche we need more money. Speaking of Killer. He and I are doing just fabulous and we have decided to pose for a holiday greeting card for Hallmark. Abbey and Dr. Ruth were too through when I was the one that got the offer. So come Christmas you will all be able to get photos of me and Killer. You can order them from clikquem@aol.com. Your letters as usual were overwhelming so after I shed a tear, I commenced to answer them.

Dear Bianca,

There was a rumor that you and Killer had broken up because you caught him in bed with the Publisher of Clikque and his boyfriend locked in a three way. If this was true I would like to help you beat him to a pulp because you deserve better, and oh, by the way, I would like to ask you out on a date.

Love Donnie X in LA

Dear Donnie X,

Are you related to Malcolm X? What ever! Who cares? First of all, Killer is not Gay and would never sleep with my boss nor his boyfriend even if they paid him. They are not cute enough! I would never leave Killer over some bullshit like him sleeping with someone else. Where did you get your gossip from, must be the same source that told Catorce that the House of Mizrahi(NY) was closing last month. I am not about to move to LA for a man. Been there, done That! So no thanks, to your offer for a date. My sources tell me that you are goggle eyed and walk with a fierce limp and that you look like a real fag. Don't ever write to me again.

Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I am very much in love with my boyfriend of two years. Recently I met another man who is very much like my boyfriend only a little sexier. He makes me laugh and we have great conversations. We have not had sex, nor kissed or anything but I can not get him off my mind. I want to share that intimate part of me with him. He is so sweet and special. He has a boyfriend as well but I think he likes me like that as well. What to do?

Being Teased in Texas

Dear BT in T.

What will your boyfriend say when he finds out that you have cheated? What if your boyfriend met someone like you, whom he wanted to have? How would you handle it? Why don't you find out from your boyfriend if he likes your new friend and have a threesome. If you boyfriend is opposed to that, then send the boy over to my house and I will have him in your name. If you find you must have this new man be prepared to suffer the consequences. Actually just be friends, your don't have to sleep with every man that you know, who is cute. If I did I would not have time to write this column, I would be lifting my britches as we speak. Exercise some control.

Love Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I live in Houston and I can't seem to find any quality men. Where do I go to find a real nice man with all the things I am lookin for. A big dick, brains, a job and a cute face and also he must make me laugh.

Lonely in Houston,

Dear Lonely,

Miss gyrll, When you find that man in any city, give him my number because I want one of those too... Oh, I didn't mean that, I want one of those for some good, good girlfriends of mine. Keep looking but don't be surprised if he does not exist. Love and Penis! Bianca.

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

Aries- Your time has finally come but it is up to you to make the most of this opportunity. You are in the prime of your life and nothing is going to stop you now. You are more beautiful than ever and your new pieces of Gucci make you look like the million dollars that is your heart. Forgive an old friend for a miss deed and then take that boy you have been holding out on home and screw his brains out.

TAURUS

Taurus- Marry that Cancer boy who has been giving you the eyes. He may be in a relationship but he is dying to get out of it. All he needs is a little encouragement from you and he will be all yours. His money, juicy lips and that gym queen body will be yours to do as you see fit, so make that move now and thank me later.

GEMINI

Gemini- You may feel that life is dealing you an unfair hand but things could be so much worse. It is up to you to make that change. Start with the man in the mirror and live today and everyday hereafter as the first day of the rest of your life. See how good it feels. Recycle, start dating an ex.

CANCER

Cancer- How good it feels to be loved and hugged and kissed. These are some of the important things in life to you, because you are a hopeless romantic. If you are not getting this kind of loving, then it is time you start looking for that someone who will give it to you. You deserve no less. You are a star and a rare gem. Let no one tell you that you are anything less. As difficult as it may be, some things in your life must be cut loose.

LEO

Leo- You are such a kind and understanding spirit. A little bull headed but a peach none-the -less. You and your mate are like glue, so keep it that way. All that glitters is not gold so let that wide eyed boy, who has been giving you the look slide right on by. He is not worth the effort. Big things are about to happen in your life. Are you ready for stardom?

VIRGO

Virgo- The town whore in you has come out, but you have restricted that animal in you to just a few partners. Good for you. Soon you will be down to one and those sheets will never be able to remain on the bed as you have found your match. Have fun, just be safe and remember not to loose sight of your real goals. The man wants you to be a success too.

LIBRA

Libra- He loves me, he loves me not.. Stop it! That is not the way life works. Stop doubting that man of yours, as he loves you dearly. He may be a little side tracked, at the moment but no love has been lost. Be nice to him and lend a listening ear, because you were meant for each other. Wash that cuchie, as it will be used quite frequently this month.

SCORPIO

Scorpio- As Venus the goddess of love moves into your birth sign, you will find that your life, has begun to take on real meaning. You are maturing as a person and you have become a cheerful giver. Within the next few weeks you will reap the benefits of all your hard work so prepare a huge Thanksgiving meal and invite all your friends over for a true fag-feast. Love is in the air.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB
www.brotha.com/clikquem/

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius- You love life and people, but you have a tendency to forget the good that others have done for you in the past. It is pay back time and you should take this opportunity to do something especially nice, for that special person in your life. If you are single find an object of your desire and treat them like a true queen. The rewards will be greater than you can imagine...

CAPRICORN

Capricorn- This is an unusually lucky time of year for you, so this is the time for you to pull out all the stops and take those risks. Whether it be in the bedroom or the boardroom you are destined for success. Wear clean draws because some fine creatures will be ripping them off of you at times when you least expect them to. This month you will give new meaning to the word sex kitten.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius- You and your loved one may be spending too much time together and things are getting a little frustrating. This does not mean that you are growing weary of each other, it just means that your sweetie needs some fresh air, so he may come back into the love nest with a renewed sense of spirit and zest for that phallus of yours. Trust me you two were meant to be. Single Aquarians stop being so cold and give that man who has been chasing you a chance.

PISCES

Pisces - You are a charismatic person and hoards of men flock to you like fly to shit. However it is up to you to decide which ones will be good lays and which ones need to be thrown back to the sea. You will find that this month, you will have a lot to be thankful for. Make a big Thanksgiving dinner and celebrate your regal beauty. Show your friends how much you appreciate them. A Libra finds you irresistible.

Stepping Out

YOUR PREMIER GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below.

ATLANTA

ARMORY, 836 Juniper, Atlanta 30309, 404-881-9280. Blackest on Fridays for Female Impersonation Divas Show

CLUB FUSION, 550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Firdays and Sundays.

CLUB MILLENNIUM, 1447 Peachtree St., 404-607-8568. Blackest on Tuesdays: Female Impersonations & Thursdays: Dance Party

LORETTA'S, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, 404-874-8125. Rebirth of an Institution. Doors open at 7:30 7 days a week.

MARQUETT, Atlanta, GA

OTHERSIDE, 1924 Piedmont Rd., Atlanta 30324, 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

PALACE, 91 Broad Street, Atlanta, GA 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

WAREHOUSE/TRAXX, 306 Luckie St., N.W., Atlanta 30313, 404-681-4422 Black and gay on Saturday. Straight on Thursday and Friday.

CHICAGO

FACES, 130 N. 4th St., East St. Louis 62201, 618-271-7410.

GENERATOR, 306 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60661, 312-243-8889.

GENTRY ON RUSH, 712 N. Rush St., Chicago 60611, 312-664-1033. Blackest on Saturday.

GENTRY ON HALSTED, 3320 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

JEFFREY PUB, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago 60649, 773-363-8555.
LITTLE JIM'S, 3501 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-871-6116. Blackest on Saturday.

NUTBUSH CITY LIMITS, 301 N. Harlem Ave., Forest Park 60130, 708-366-5117.

RAILS, 1675 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, Il 708-802-1705

ROSCOE'S TAVERN & CAFE, 3354-6 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-281-3355.

DALLAS

METRO, 2204 Elm St., Dallas 75201, 214-742-2101. (Mail: Box 1187, Dallas, TX 75221). manoman226@aol.com

TRAXX, 1920 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas 75215, 214-421-8181.

HOUSTON

INCOGNITO, 2524 McKinney St., Houston 77003, 713-237-9431.

RASCALS, 1318 Westheimer, 77006. 713-942-CLUB. Open Thursday - Sunday from 10PM.

MIAMI/FT, LAUD.

BOARDWALK, 17008 Collins Ave. N., North Miami Beach 33160, 305-354-8617.

COPA NIGHTCLUB, 2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 33316. Blackest on Sunday.

ON THE WATERFRONT, 3615 N.W. South River Dr., Miami 33142, 305-635-5500. Blackest on Tuesday.

SUGAR'S, 17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami 33160-3113, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

NEW YORK

CLIT CLUB, 432 W. 14th St., New York 10014, 212-406-1114. Fridays only. Women.

KELLERS, 384 West St., New York 10014, 212-243-1907.

MANHATTAN MONSTER, 80 Grove St., New York 10014, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT, 1 Front St., Brooklyn 11201, 718-852-0139.

OCTAGON, 555 W. 33rd St., New York 10001, 212-947-0400.

RED ZONE, 2018 45th St., Astoria 11105-1230.

SOUND FACTORY, 618 W. 46th St., New York 10001, 212-643-0728. Blackest on Saturday.

TWO POTATO, 143 Christopher St., New York 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

ORLANDO / TAMPA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE***, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32805, 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS****, 375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando 32803, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

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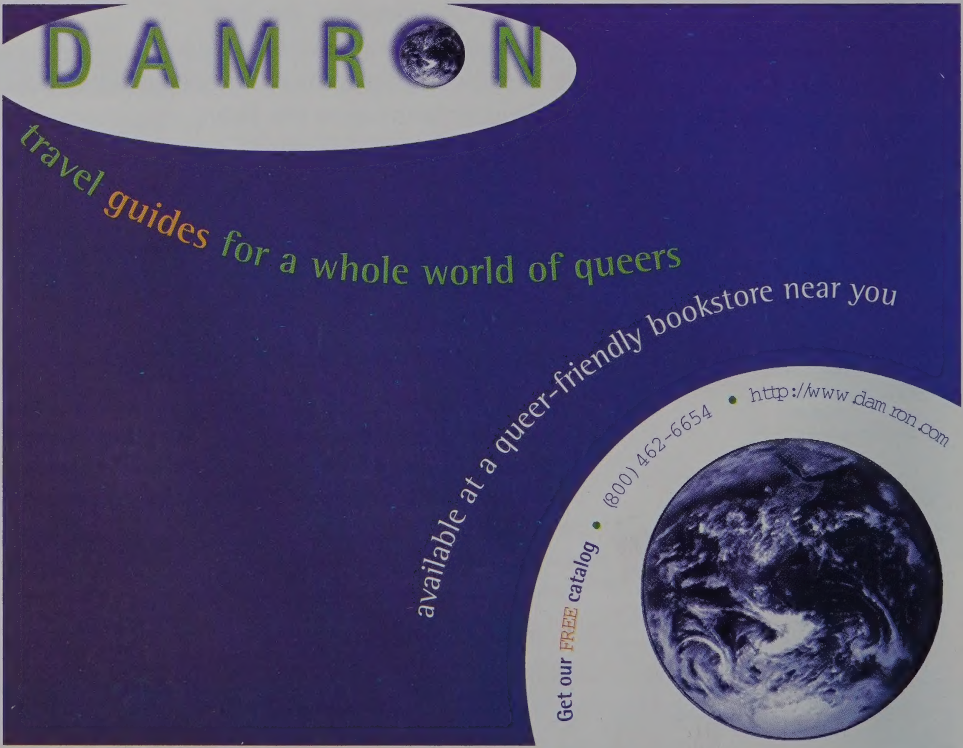

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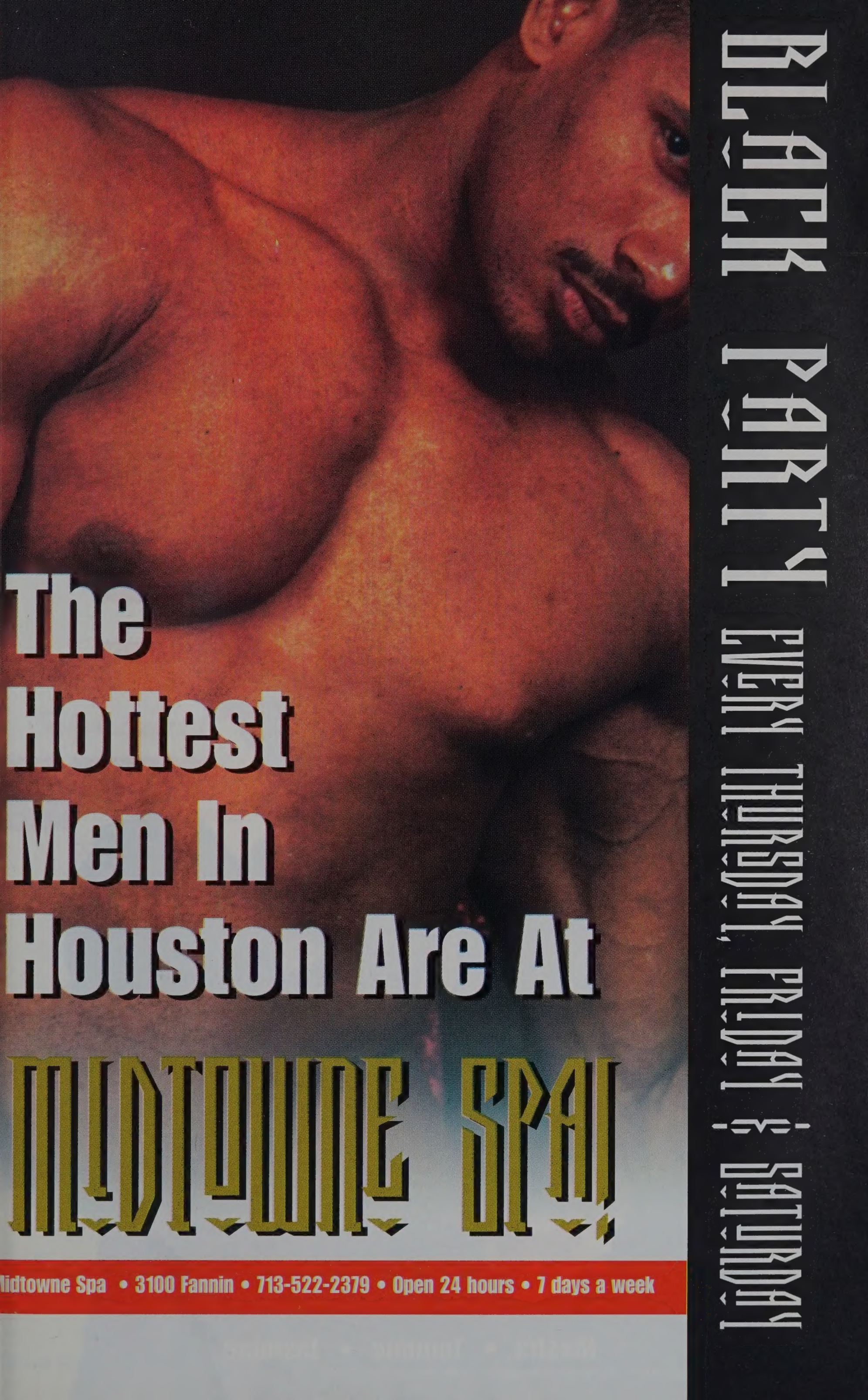

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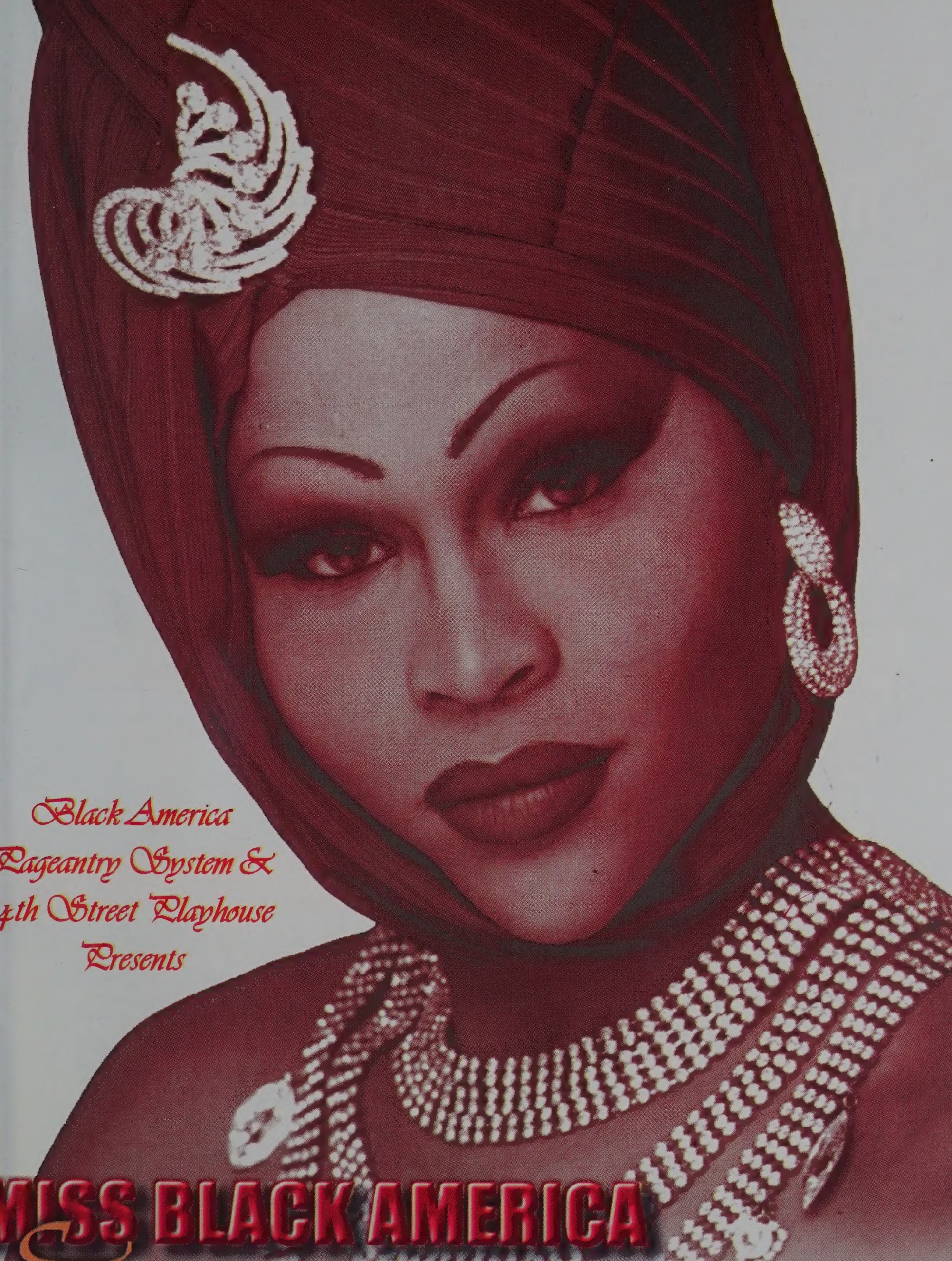

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7

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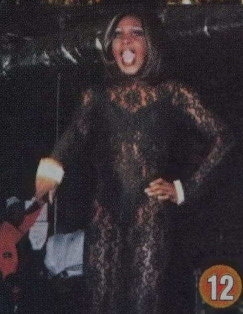
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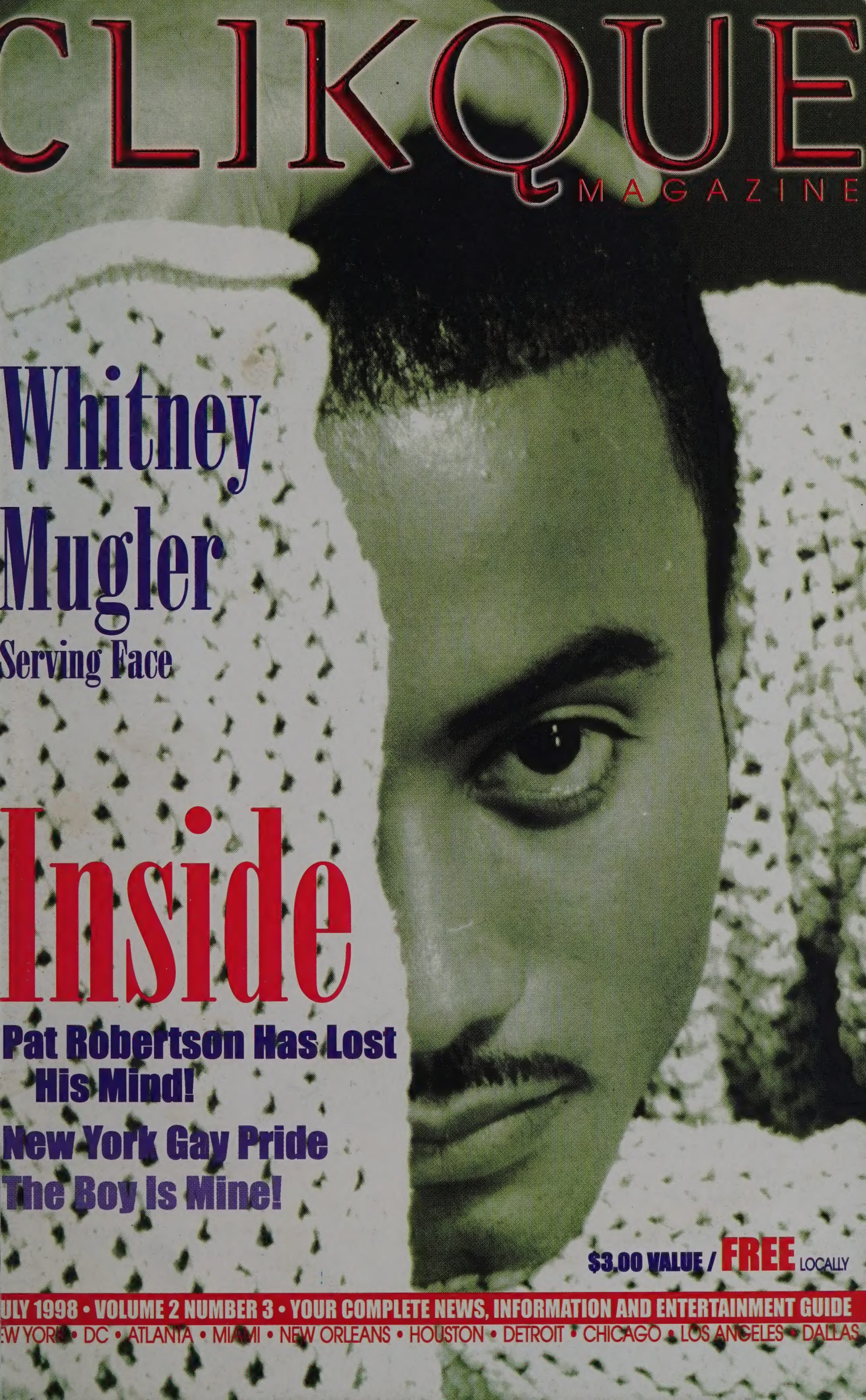

Whitney Mugler
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Inside
Pat Robertson Has Lost His Mind!

New York Gay Pride

The Boy Is Mine!

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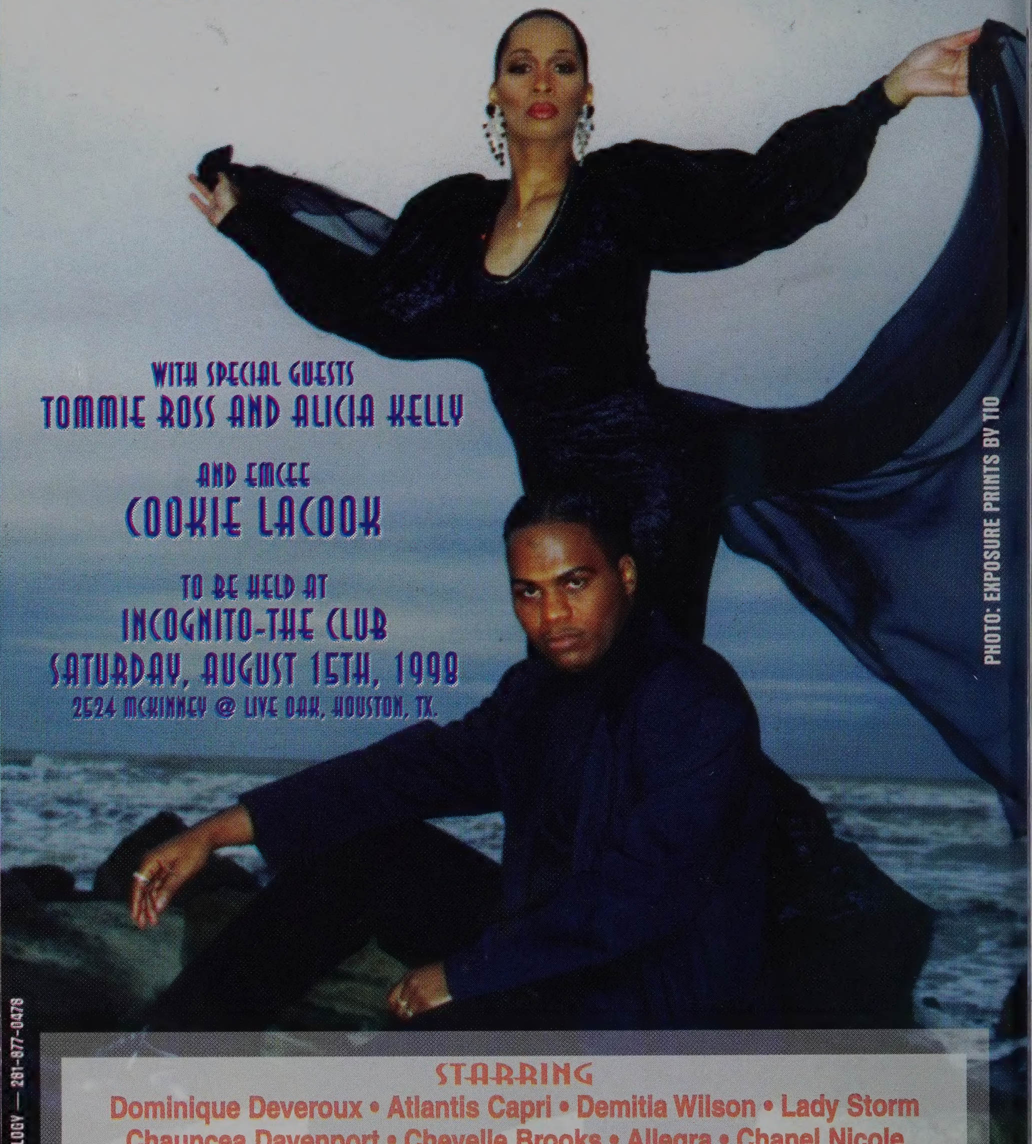

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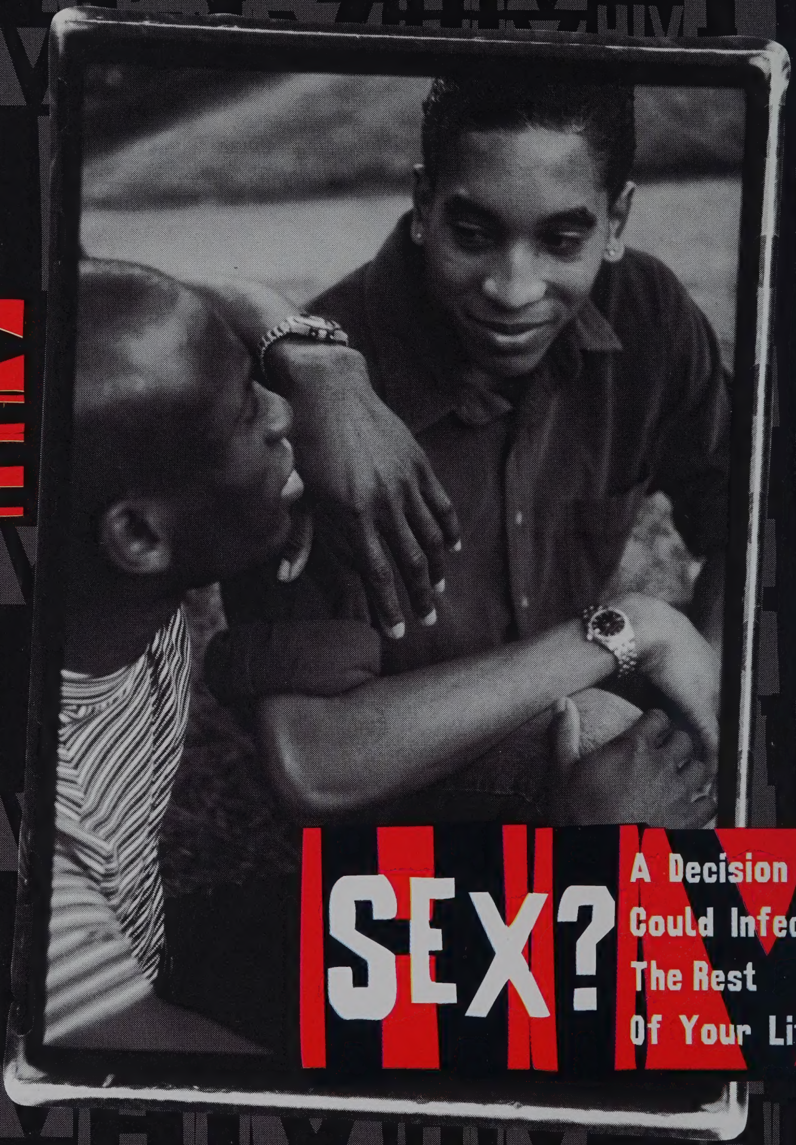

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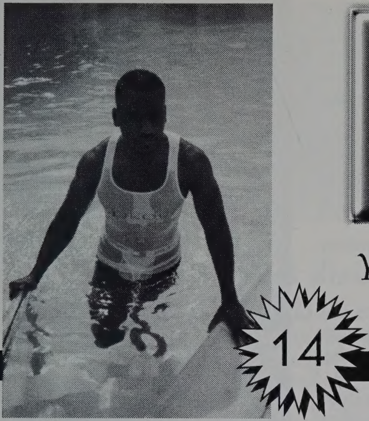

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EDITORIAL

The summer is officially here and across America Gay people are celebrating pride. There are numerous Pride events going on in just about every city you can think of, but do we really have anything to be proud of? Some cities have a Black, a Latino as well as the usual White pride.

This year New York City will have its first official Black Pride Celebration, and I will not cast any judgment on the event until I have witnessed it.

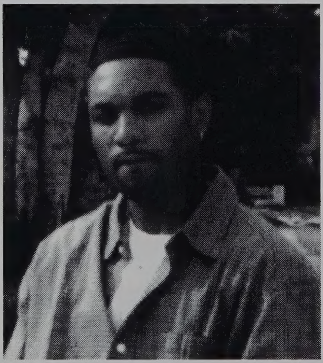
I have traveled to so many Pride events across the country, only to ask myself at the end of it all, why am I here? The resounding answer, usually is, to see friends and promote Clikque. I must however acknowledge that for the first time in five years I was actually proud to be in DC for Pride. I realized that we do have something to be proud of in the District. We have a very strong and skillful group of people operating under the auspeces of the Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum doing amazing things on our behalf. Amazing because the work is much needed and they have less than a shoe string budget with which to do it.

Then there was the Pride Committee that has labored to bring the event which was fabulous from beginning to end to an exciting climax. I saw groups such as Us Helping Us , doing their thing. There was the Gentlemen's Inc. showing out and of course there were many publications including ours, making sure that you were kept informed and enlightened. Rick Iric of the Malebox hosted a fierce function for the media, whose guest list read like a who's who, in Black Gay America. Important issues were discussed and we at Clikque felt proud to be a part of that group.

Also this Year Rascals in Houston hosted the first official Black Pride Houston. The event was an astounding success and shows lots of promise for the future. Event co-ordinator Grover Fortenberry should be lauded for his efforts at putting Houston in the circuit of national Black Gay Pride events.

There are people in the community who are giving of themselves to see us progress but the battle is no where near over. There are still too many of us who are gay in the bedroom only where it leads to nothing but heartache. It is time for the dormant volcanoes in our midst to erupt and be counted. I urge you all in this time of Pride celebrations to make your contribution and your presence felt. To those who have kept the struggle going, we at Clikque salute you.

THE MEN BEHIND CLIKQUE



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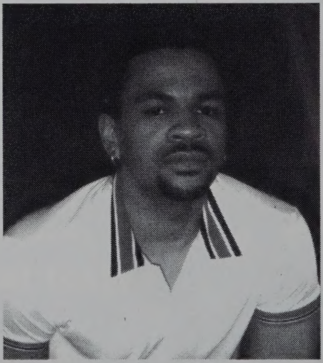

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HEADLINERS

Supreme Court says disability act covers HIV

WASHINGTON (CNN) — HIV-infected people are protected by the federal ban on discrimination against the disabled even if they suffer no symptoms of AIDS, the Supreme Court said. The ruling went against a Maine dentist who told an HIV-infected patient that he would fill her cavity in a hospital, but not in his office. The woman, Sidney Abbott, sued under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a federal civil rights law which bars disability discrimination.

The decision was a victory not just for Abbott but for the Justice Department, which has included people with HIV under the scope of the disability law. A person can be HIV-positive but not have AIDS itself. In an opinion written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, the Supreme Court said the patient's HIV infection was a disability covered by the law, even though she had no symptoms of the disease.

The court also ruled that Abbott was disabled because she was substantially limited in the "major life activity" of reproduction because of her disease. Correspondent Charles Bierbauer contributed to this report.

Testing of AIDS vaccine begins

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Volunteers began rolling up their sleeves and receiving injections Tuesday in the first-ever large-scale human test of an AIDS vaccine. The three-year trial of VaxGen Inc.'s AIDSvax is intended to learn whether it can protect people from infection with the AIDS virus. The testing is the final step before federal Food and Drug Administration approval. Five thousand volunteers will participate in more than 30 U.S. cities, including San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and St. Louis.

Researchers say Vaccine is safe. Volunteers will be injected with either a placebo or AIDSvax, which scientists say is not dangerous because it is not a live strain of the AIDS virus. The test is open to people who are considered to be at high risk of contracting the AIDS virus, such as gay men and women whose sexual partners are infected. Many of the volunteers are already veterans of the fight against AIDS. Dr. Mark Watkins, 38, was the first participant in the demand nation to receive the injection. He is among 150 volunteers in Philadelphia. Petr Pronsati, who works for the AIDS awareness clinic Philadelphia FIGHT, said he volunteered and agreed to the media spotlight to "give hope to people." "I think it's great that people see there is something being worked on and people see the faces of people involved," Pronsati said. Volunteers will be given a series of shots, undergo periodic blood tests and discuss their sex lives with researchers.

New York passes HIV partner-notification bill

ALBANY, New York (AP) — New York doctors must report the names of people living with HIV and AIDS and notify their exual partners, under legislation approved Friday. The state Assembly on Thursday passed the sweeping notification measure 112-34, after two hours of heated debate that pitted civil liberties concerns against public health needs.

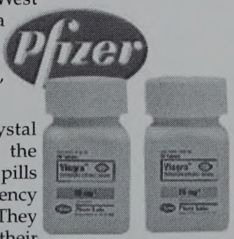
Under the legislation, health-care workers must try to get infected patients to identify any former sexual partners who may be at risk, and then notify them. Currently, doctors have the option of telling partners about the virus in some cases, but health workers say they fear lawsuits if they do so.

The state Senate had already passed the bill, which advocates say is among the most far-reaching in the nation. Critics say requiring such reporting will deter some people from seeking testing and treatment. Public health officials argue that the notification program could help stem the spread of HIV.

Doctors: Combining Viagra, poppers could be deadly

LOS ANGELES (AP) — People who take Viagra along with party stimulants known as "poppers" may be mixing a deadly cocktail, doctors warn. Poppers are legal, inhaled stimulants that heighten sensation by dilating blood vessels. The impotence pill Viagra also dilates blood vessels, and combining the two drugs can result in a dangerous drop in blood pressure.

Three men reportedly died after using Viagra, poppers and crystal methamphetamine earlier this month, said Kathy Watt, executive director of a drug treatment center. Poppers are said to be especially popular among gays, and daily the potentially lethal combination has leaders of the homosexual community worried. "As Viagra becomes more available through the party circuit, the combination is just going to turn deadly," said Steve Martin, mayor of West Hollywood, where about a third of the city is gay. "You're just going to see people dropping like flies."



Nightclubbers take crystal methamphetamine for the high. They swallow Viagra pills to restore the sexual potency that the meth takes away. They snort poppers to enhance their sexual experience. Pfizer Inc., the maker of Viagra, issued a warning about inhaling recreational nitrates such as poppers in mid-May.

Clikque Readers Are Talking About...

....These silly statments made by Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson

Last month, Pat Robertson warned the city of Orlando, Fla., that it risks hurricanes, earthquakes and terrorists bombs by allowing gay organizations to put up multi-colored rainbow flags in support of sexual diversity.

"The Apostle Paul made it abundantly clear in the Book of Romans that the acceptance of Homosexuality is the last step in the decline of Gentile civilization," Robertson told views of *The 700 Club* after a news report on "gay days" at Walt Disney World and the Orlando debate on the decision to display the flags.

"I would warn Orlando that you're right in the way of some serious hurricanes, and I don't think I'd be waving those flags in God's face if I were you," Robertson said. "This is not a message of hate; this is a message of redemption. But a condition like this will bring about the destruction of your nation. It'll bring about terrorist bombs; it'll bring earthquakes, tornados and possibly a meteor."

Well, it is our opinion here at Clikque Magazine that Pat Robertson has lost his Fu...king Mind!

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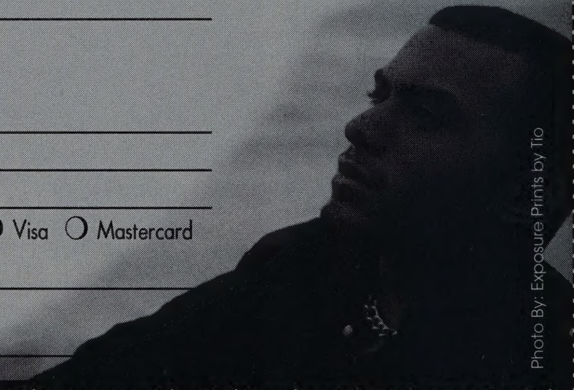

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Don't Disrespect Me!

—THE BOY IS MINE—

Many of us in the Afro-American gay community are familiar with the phrase "the girls kill me." No doubt a phrase associated negatively with gay men whom we consider to be messy, fishy, or better yet trifling, disingenuous, disrespectful jerks.

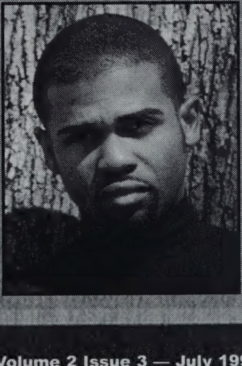
Gays who are either interested or involved in monogamous relationships know the difficulties in maintaining such. Generally time, energy, and let's not forget money is exhausted and required to create a bond that is not common and or necessarily embraced by our community. Therefore, there exist the "girls" whose full-time career is to destroy the beginning of a foundation between two people that love each other.

Examples of such common disrespect for the unity of people who are regarded as an item begins with the intolerable "flirt." Our society justifies flirting so long as it does not progress into fucking. However, all things have a beginning. The problem with the "girl" who flirts is that everyone has their own definition of what the action constitutes. One can flirt with their eyes or simple body language. However, the more popular flirting style involves reaching out and touching someone that does not belong to you, i.e., putting your hands on an unavailable shoulder, chest, or waistline. This type of flirting motivated Tom to throw Dick off of a cliff at Hippie Hollow! In other words flirting or the reciprocation of such can create hurt feelings.

Another venue of disrespect against the monogamous couple involves the infamous "Ex" who cannot move on with her future after the break up, or better yet fuck up of a previous relationship. The girl who realizes too late that "you don't know what you've got till it's gone".
makes continuous efforts to call, write, or contact in any regard a previous lover who has moved on with their life. That "girl" should evaluate the reasons for the separation and move on with her life and respect the fact that, the other person has found happiness in someone else.

Couples who choose to maintain a monogamous relationship acquire power. Power in which outsiders seek to destroy the fidelity and trust monogamy can create. The definition of monogamy within any community should be defined as free of a venereal diseases and more importantly true friendship between people that care for each other.

So for all of you monogamy haters who choose to disrespect the oneness of a couple, keep in mind that all too familiar phrase that "What goes around comes around." More importantly know that "The Boy is Mine."



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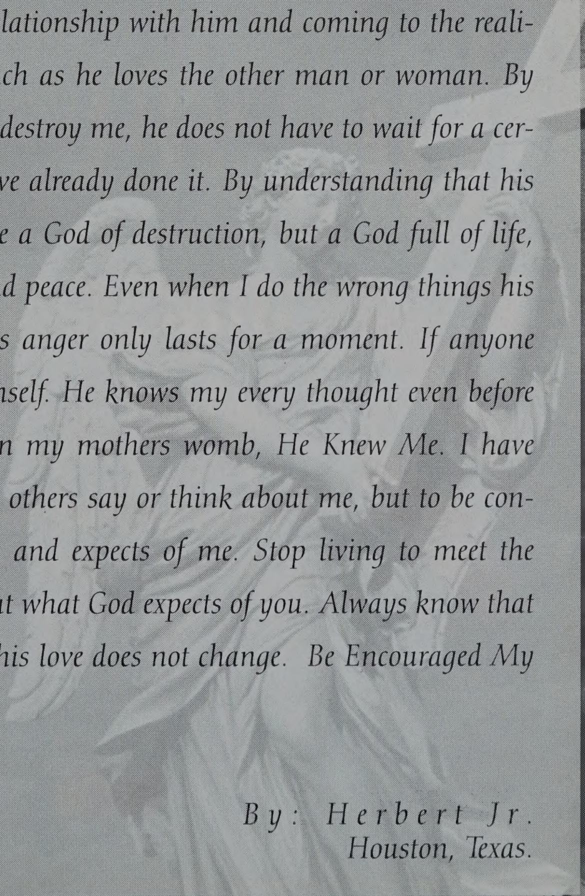
AUSTIN, TX

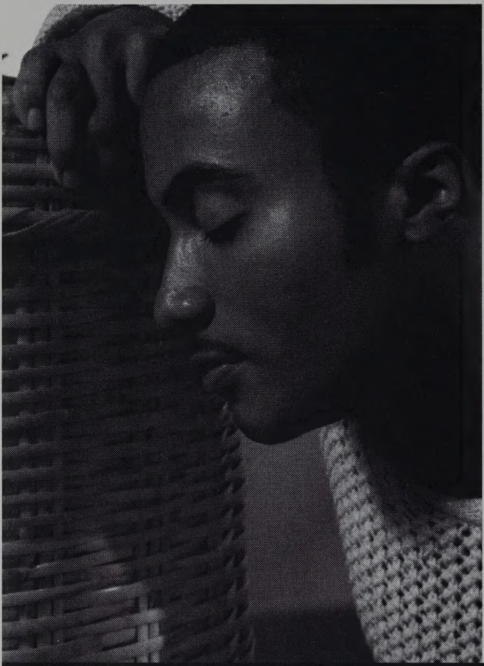
My Lord My Life My Struggle

A famous author once said, "If you're having trouble overcoming your depression and despair, maybe it's because you have been looking to the wrong source and listening to the wrong information. Maybe you have been dwelling on, meditating on, focusing on, things that produce hopelessness rather than happiness. Maybe you need to change your source of information and start looking for a good word that will make you glad instead of sad." Strong words of advise given by a wise man but do we really have problems overcoming our depression? Well, being associated with this lifestyle for many years, I have found there to be some good days and some bad days. Some days when I am up as well as days I am down. Yes I can say that this life can be truly a struggle. The struggle of knowing what I was taught as a child in Sunday School and the values and morales that my parents put in me were far beyond the reality I had to face once I became a young man. Not being able to expose nor express what was really going on in my life to family members or my community because of traditional spiritual beliefs. While at the same time dealing with an issue so real in my life that even if a blind man took a second to look, he could see it all over me. MY LIFE. I cannot imagine someone having a more interesting life. Being consumed by the night lights and the parties. Meeting guys at the different annual functions who understand me and can identify with the things I deal with from day to day. At the same time going to church from Sunday to Sunday, listening to those selfrighteous church people who believe the only way to go to Hell is to be in the "Life". Believing those Spiritual Theologians that have prophesied to me that God was upset at me and was going to destroy me. Truly this has been a very interesting life. But how was I able to endure the struggle? How was I able to stand between the "he say this and she says that?" By finding out what God's Word said for me. By establishing my own relationship with him and coming to the reality that he loves me just as much as he loves the other man or woman. By knowing that if God wanted to destroy me, he does not have to wait for a certain time to do it, he would have already done it. By understanding that his word does not declare him to be a God of destruction, but a God full of life, filled with compassion, love, and peace. Even when I do the wrong things his love is so great for me that his anger only lasts for a moment. If anyone knows me it would be God himself. He knows my every thought even before I think it. Even when I was in my mothers womb, He Knew Me. I have learnt not to worry about what others say or think about me, but to be concerned about what God thinks and expects of me. Stop living to meet the expectation of others but find out what God expects of you. Always know that he is an Ever Loving God and his love does not change. Be Encouraged My Brother, My Sister!!!!!!!!!



By: Herbert Jr.
Houston, Texas.

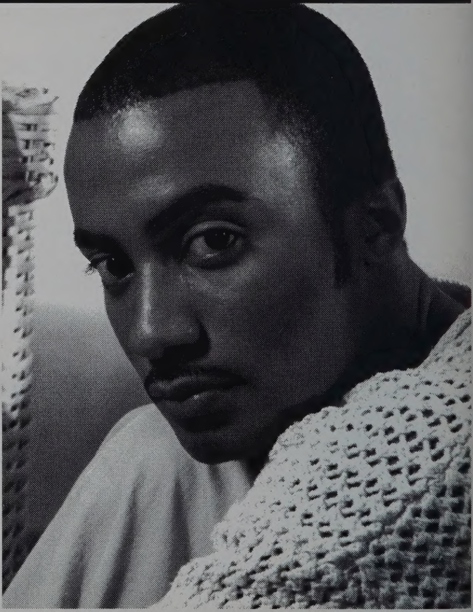
UP CLOSE *With* Whitney Mugler



After we got past the awesome gorgeousness, that is the face of this months cover model, Whitney Serrant Mugler, we were pleased to find out that beyond the good looks lies an equally charming individual.

In the North-east and as far south as Atlanta, when one talks about face the name Whitney Mugler is bound to follow real soon. Whitney was quite happy to be chosen as this months featured cover model and gave us a sneak peak into his private world. An aspiring model the 27 year-old Trinidad native says his career in avionics derailed shortly after high school, when he realized that he was meant for the main stage. He started pursuing the acting profession, where he landed roles in the Off-Broadway version of West Side Story as well as a production of the Harlem Renaissance, where he Tap danced his way to rave reviews. Whitney moved with his mom to New York City when he was two years old and remained there until he was almost 21. Since then he has been living in Washington DC with his two cats. Whitney will appear at the Clikque Entertainer Of The Year Contest in Houston on July 25th, as well as the Safari Ball in Atlanta on Labor Day Weekend. Look out Houston, here comes the Legendary Whitney Face Mugler.

By: Lewis Nicholson



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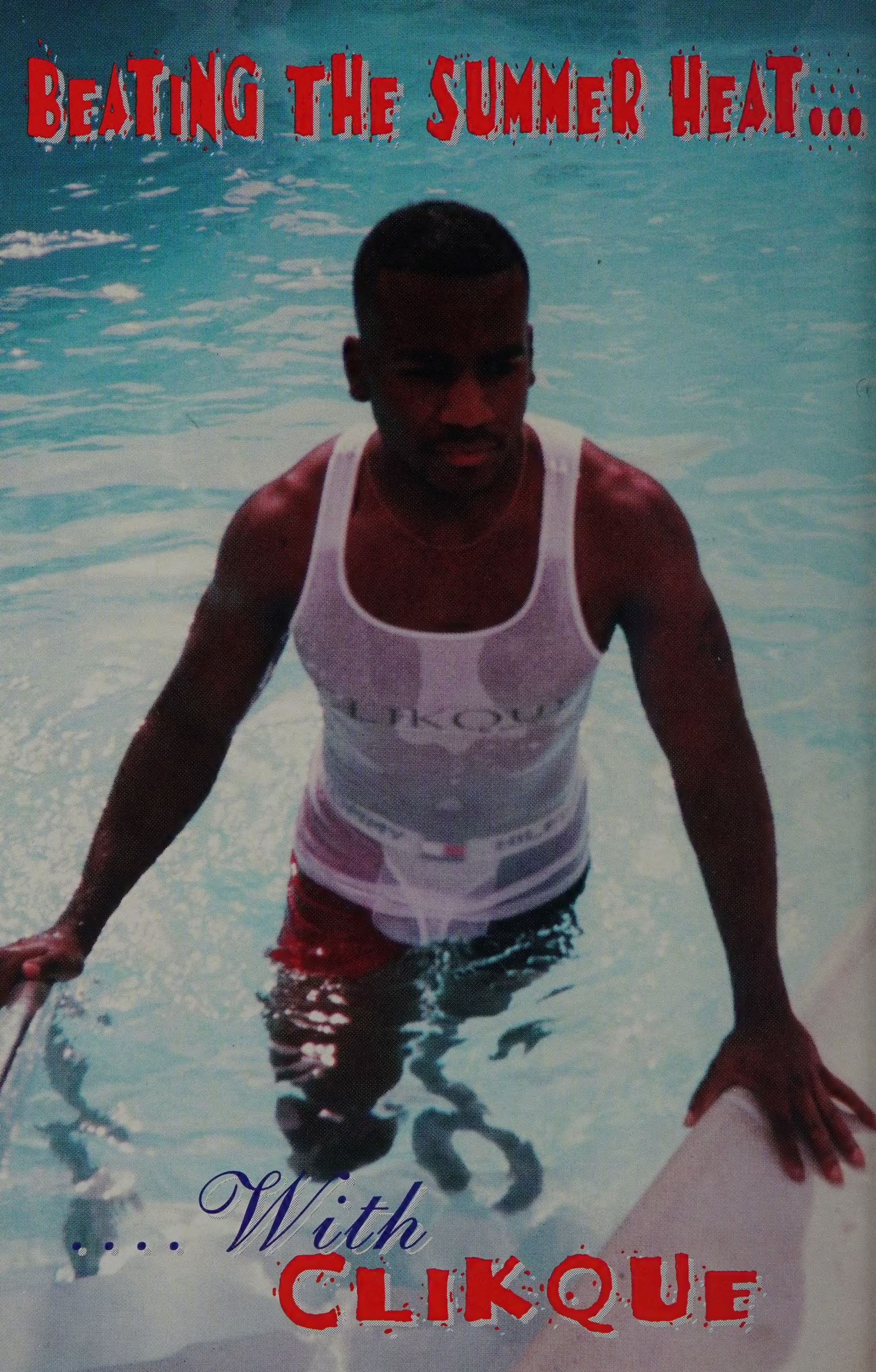
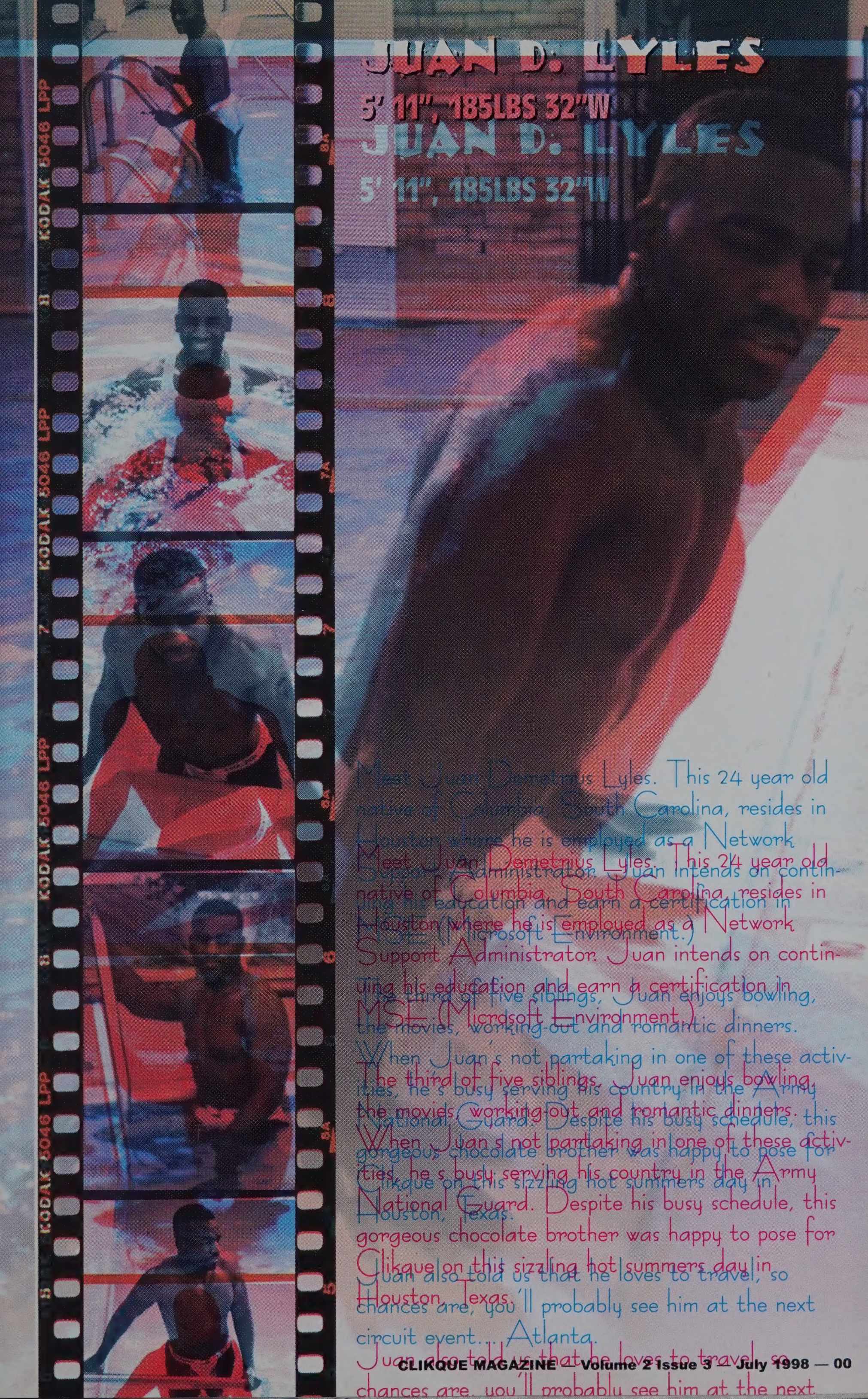


....With CLIKQUE



JUAN D. LYLES

5' 11", 185LBS 32"W

JUAN D. LYLES

5' 11", 185LBS 32"W

Meet Juan Demetrius Lyles. This 24 year old native of Columbia, South Carolina, resides in Houston where he is employed as a Network Support Administrator. Juan intends on continuing his education and earn a certification in MSE (Microsoft Environment.)

The third of five siblings, Juan enjoys bowling, the movies, working-out and romantic dinners. When Juan's not partaking in one of these activities, he's busy serving his country in the Army National Guard. Despite his busy schedule, this gorgeous chocolate brother was happy to pose for Clikque on this sizzling hot summers day in Houston, Texas.

Juan also told us that he loves to travel, so chances are, you'll probably see him at the next circuit event.... Atlanta.

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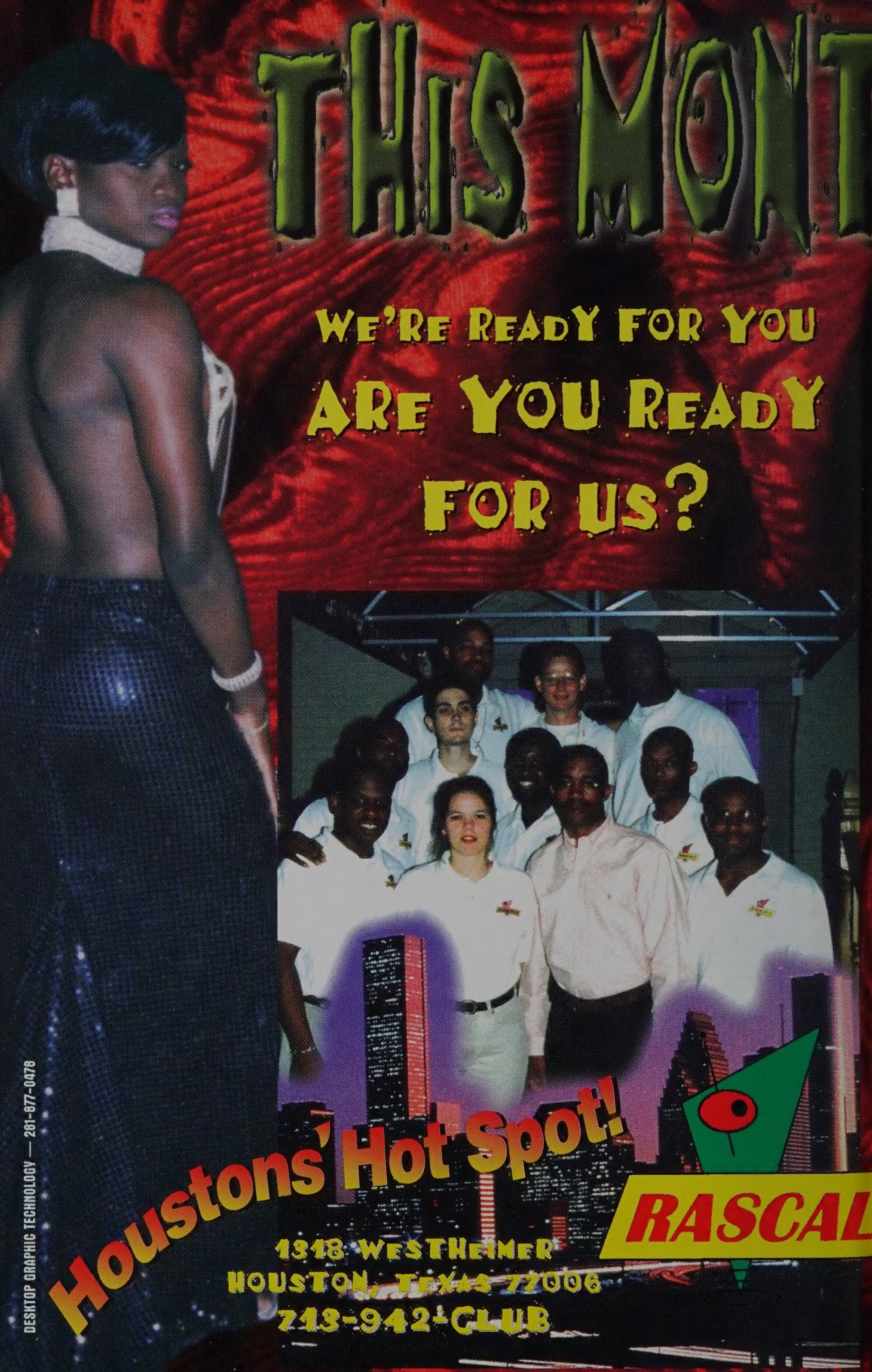
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HOT NUMBERS

WHICH ONE OF YOU WILL GET THE HOT NUMBER?

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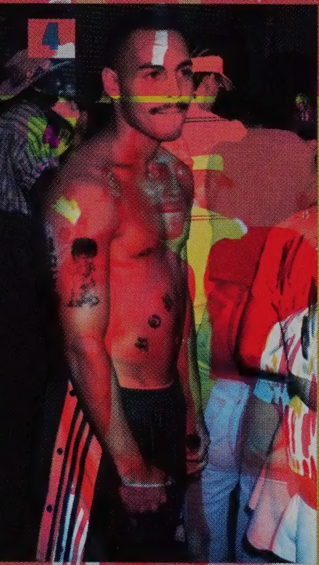
1

2

3

1998 New York

Just after taking a shot of the fierce and talented **LEGENDARY ANDRE MIZRAHI** (9) my colleagues and I from Houston who were at New York's Pride got the scare of our lives. It was like a scene from Independence Day or Deep Impact. Thousands of stomping feet coming in your direction from the piers of the Hudson river, made it appear that an earthquake had caused the river to make a mad dash for Christopher St. During the stampede that ensued Houston's **TYRONE** (1) from over on Harwin Dr. suffered minor bruises to his left elbow as he fell trying to escape the avalanche. Andre's fierceness we will continue to hold responsible for the whole ordeal, as we are yet to find out what really happened. Spotted on the same scene were the Legendary Eric Bazaar serving hair and the multitalented Selvin Mizrahi. There were several ball legends gathered at the spot we were in and had there been a disaster the ball world would have suffered a great loss. The parade was ovah, as we spotted **CUTIES FROM ATLANTA**, (11) **LA, DC AND HOUSTON**. Then there was the **DOMINICAN PAPI** from New York who just had us gagging (4). I wanted to have four babies with that one. He can sit at home in Houston if he takes me out on my other. Later that night we ran into the fabulousness of the one and only [illegible] (2) of Miss Honey fame and her co-hort Miss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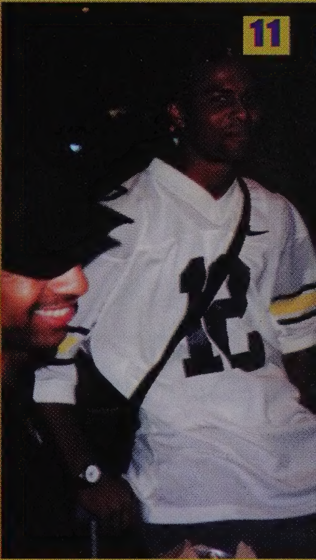
10

ay Pride Parade

CHARLES(12) These two took to the Washington and Christopher streets intersections and served the runway much to the delight of an awestruck adhoc audience. It was cute to see that the **HOUSE OF MOSHOOD**(10) had taken the time out to prepare a flawless float for the parade on which we spotted Club Diva Miss Turk herself. Speaking of Turk we had a fabulous time sharing the dance floor with him at the Octagon on the Friday night. James Saunders and Fred Pierce still know how to throw a fierce Pride party. It was amazing. On the word amazing let me introduce you to the Legendary Kevin Ultra Omni, my longtime friend and Ballroom Legendary Face forever. He was on hand to remind me of my past and deliver me a severe tongue lashing for running off and leaving New York without a proper good bye. Again, I am sorry. According to our CoverBoy Whitney Mugler, Saturday night at the Wharehouse was simply devine. An almost out of body experience, we are told and everyone who was anybody was there. Charles Jackson and Mike Stone have truly risen from the depths of near extinction to take their rightful place back on top with the rest where they belong. Much Respect!

Photos & Story By Lewis Nicholson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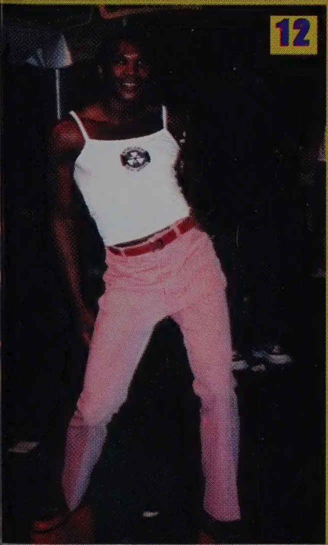
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13
All Races
All Sexes
All Ages

14

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The Relationship Crisis:

What are you bring to the table?

Ask someone what they want from a relationship and they will probably give you three (at the very least) or more responses. Many people say, "they want someone to love them for who they are." Others say, "they want someone who can be honest with them" and of course, most people just reply by saying, "they want someone to treat them right!"

Seldom will you hear someone say, "I want someone I can love for who they are," "I want someone I can be totally honest with," or "I want someone I can treat right!" Responses such as these are not given because most people never look to see what they can bring to a relationship.

For this reason, so many of us are in disfunctional, unhealthy, and dishonest relationships. Normally it takes going through a painful experience or a bad relationship before we stop to do a self-evaluation. Even then, we still place the blame on the other person. We constantly say, "he" did this or "he" did that, never stopping to evaluate our part. Subsequently, we go in and out of relationships looking for that perfect person like ourselves: kind, loving, honest, and caring.

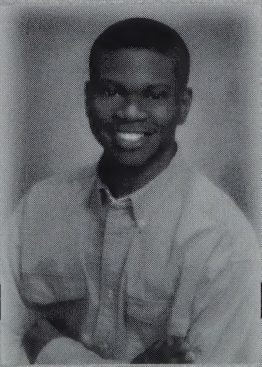
Is this reality, or are we just fooling ourselves? If we took a hard look at ourselves, would we really want someone like us? Are we really that perfect?

It appears that gay relationships are the hardest. Why is this? Why is it so hard for us to build strong foundations with each other, trust each other and stop hurting each other? Basically because we do not know what we want or expect from relationships. Until we accept that a relationship is about give and take, we'll continually walk out of relationships with our needs and wants unfulfilled.

Society does not define, nor are there any examples of what roles gays are supposed to demonstrate in a relationship. Therefore, it becomes rather difficult to know what to expect from a two male or two female relationship.

We all have something positive we can bring to the table. I've learned I can offer someone loyalty, honesty, and attention. I know I lack in the departments of trusting, having patience, and the giving up of control. However, knowing what I can bring to table, makes me understand what it is I need/want. I cannot love someone completely who cannot give me loyalty, honesty, or sincere attention...this would not be fulfilling.

Through experiences that have left me feeling empty, used, and unfulfilled, I've learned I cannot make (teach) anyone have these traits. When I was awakened to these truths-what I can bring to the table and what I cannot change about anyone, I started experiencing more fulfilling relationships.

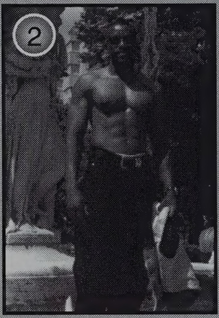


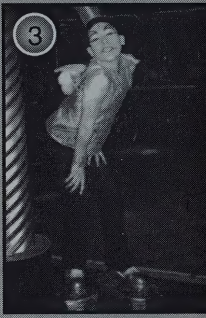
Written By Oscar Franklin, ARKANSAS

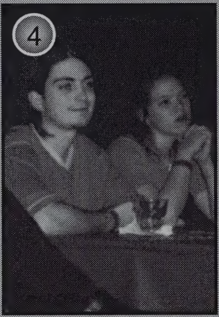
SCENE QUEEN

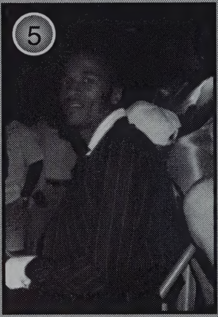
Clikque Magazine's Scene Queen Just Came Back From Her Monthl

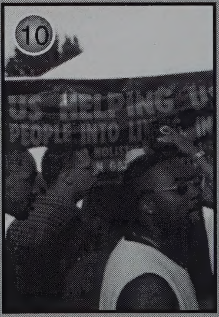
1. *Miss Roger Gyrll*. You sure wore out them heels. But drag would never be complete without some broken stilettos. **2. *LA's*** most frequently seen. We saw him in ***DC***. Chest and all. **3.** We went to ***Toys-Houston***, this girl was truly walking. Nice shoes. **4. *Christian and Paige***, at ***Incognito***, now wasn't that sweet? **5. *Akedrian Adams*** newly crowned Mr. Southern State. The boy is fine! By the way, remind the ***pageant owners*** that they ***still owe Clikque*** for the ad that they purchased in May. **6.** The ***spice girls*** before ***Cookie*** broke them up. **7. *Tyra Brooks*** is making a name for herself as a fierce new comer. **8.** They couldn't believe they were in drag, ***but we did! - Just kidding...... Cookie* 9. *Erica Badon't***- It was ovuh for huh! We loved her more than the judges did. **10.** Spirit of DC, ***Us helping Us***. **11.** She won, yes she won!! ***Mr Gay Houston*** is now Miss I am in Drag or something like that.







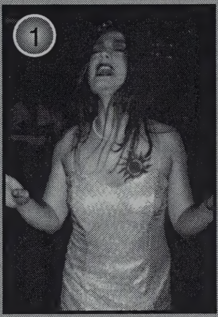


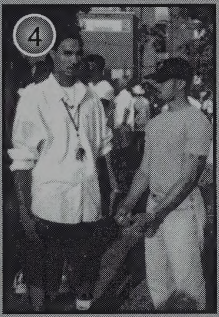


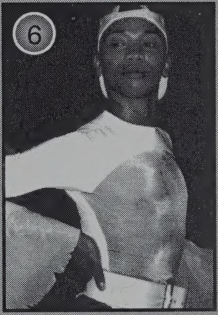
SCENE QUEEN

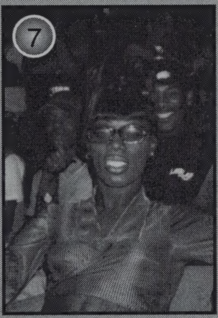
xcursion of Night Club Tours Across America. Look Who She Saw.

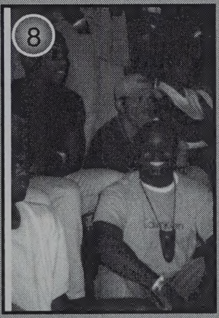
1. *Shh!! Christian*, No one will touch you, but ou shoulda won the contest. **2. *Cookie La Cook!*** as anyone seen huh lately? e need to interview huh! **3. *Freyda Payne!*** We were hurting watching her perform in that get up, but she was cute, and she knew too. **4.** Cuties in the house! ***C Pride***. **5.** Doesn't she look real! ***CJ*** was this really your first time in drag? **6. *Turk*** is still turning it in ***New York***, we saw her erving at Pride 98! You work bitch! **7. *Domonique Devereau***!!! Need we say more? Gosple Queen taking a break. **8.** This is ***Houston's*** finest. **9. *Carlos and oderick***, Whose baby is that? **10.** All dressed up. ***James*** where are you going? New York's Premier Club Promoter. **11. *Kaviar***, No more pageants for you girl! How any titles will it take to make you a true queen. **12.** Last week at ***Rascals*** I could swear this was that guy from ***Dru Hill***.

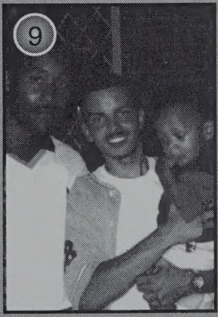


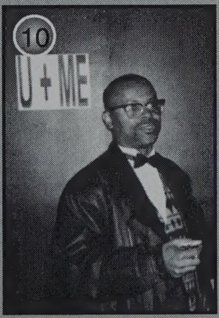


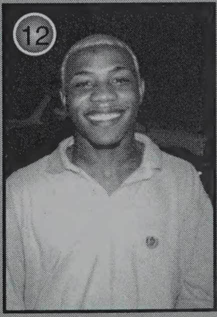












The Darker the Berry

the Sweeter the Juice?

"Ooh girl, he is much too dark for me to date." "I prefer a little milk in my coffee." "You ain't no real brother, your skin is too light and your hair is too straight." Unfortunately the phrases previously expressed are all too familiar within the Afro-American community. Does the color of ones skin determine the quality of person they are? Does the shade of a persons skin suggest their level of intelligence, financial stability, or determine whether or not that person qualifies as a better partner and or friend? Many of us were taught as children that we should stick with our own kind and that by doing so it would lessen the probability of having to deal with confrontation from others who are what I define as racist.

I recall comments such as "If you marry that light skin girl, you will have pretty babies with hazel eyes or straight hair." I can also recall the comment that if I were to choose someone brown and or darker hue I would reduce being ridiculed for making the choice to date someone with much lighter skin. Little did they realize (relatives) that my chances of marrying and/or dating someone of a different gender and procreating was last on my agenda. Perhaps the choice to date dark skin as suppose to that of a lighter shade or the other way around, has a more significant foundation.

Peter Tosh, Musician 1944-1987 stated that "Anywhere you come from, as long as you're a black man, you're an African." Once we consider issues of identity and community in America it is clear that regardless of the shade of our skin we are identified with Black America. Although we as a people are a result of the diaspora (a dispersion of a originally homogeneous people) we are of similar kind that is a progeny of Africa. So why has the choice to associate and/or to date the variation of color within the Afro-American community resurfaced as an ongoing issue among blacks?

One suggestion is that the ongoing issue of indifference amongst Afro-Americans who are persuaded to date a lighter or darker skin person is a result of an inferior status that European-American via stereotype has placed on the roles of light or dark skin black people through the media and the oppressive treatment of blacks is general in America.

Perhaps subconsciously Afro-Americans who are affected by such stereotypes tend to date a particular skin tone within their race because they are influenced unknowingly by such prejudice introduced by White America, that is the tone of skin determines the quality and/or success of a person. Regardless the choice to associate or date an individual based upon anything other than the quality of person or genuine preference is morally wrong.

Once more when considering the choice to date and/or associate with an individual based upon the tone of their skin, understand that you contribute to the problem of racism (subtle) that exists in our society. It is this type of racism that inhibits progression of a people who have been oppressed by White-America because of being a part of the Afro-American race. Let us take pride in the plethora of shades that exist in our culture. Let us also take pride in the more important struggle which is the choice to be gay, proud, and Afro-American.

By
Todd
EDWARDS

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

It is time you stop thinking that there is no one out there for you, as this is not true. Your soul mate is on the horizon just waiting, but you will never realize this until you stop looking for a specific type. Just let go and approach that sweetheart you have been cruising for the past month and believe it or not he/she will be the one.

TAURUS

You Bulls are finding it difficult to cope with the summer heat and are making life unnecessarily miserable for the ones you love. Be careful you don't lose the love of your life because you are so caught up in yourself to realize that the problem is you and the heat not them.

GEMINI

You two faced girls will have a wonderful summer of dating and frolicking with all the finest men. The slut in you has been unleashed and you are making quite a few people happy at the moment. Just remember that come September when everyone decides to settle down you may be left holding the personals.

CANCER

It is your time as the moon approaches your birth sign. It is time for re-invention of self. You have given of your all to others and it is high time you start thinking of your own needs. Love others but remember that you must love yourself first. A Leo will fall madly in love with you this summer.

LEO

For the first time in your life you have found yourself thinking that others opinions matter as well. Keep up your new found belief in the potential and abilities of others and you will be amazed at how much your lover can actually bring to the table. And I don't mean just dessert.

VIRGO

You virgins will have to erase that word from your vocabulary this summer, as by summers end, there will not be an orifice on your body that will still be virginal. You will however find Mr. Or Ms. Right after all the Right Nows have done their disappearing act.

LIBRA

Your kind hearts will reap all the benefits of what you have sown all year so let us hope that you sewed some good seeds because it is harvest time. Live a little honey. You have been truly blessed.

SCORPIO

It is high time you stop being so fickle. Make up your mind who your friend are and stop switching on them. People are getting tired of your constant friend today, not tomorrow routine and are about to cut you loose. You have a heart of gold so just make up your damn mind.

SAGITTARIUS

You will fall helplessly in love with a Cancerian who is not quite ready for you. Give him or her some time and a little breathing room, and believe it when I say you will soon have them eating out of your hands.

CAPRICORN

So, you have decided to settle down and you think the rest of the world should follow suit. Have I got news for you. Contrary to popular belief the world does not revolve around you and you need to stop being so judgemental of others. Live your own life.

Clikque Magazine
Get Into It!

AQUARIUS

You have a lot to be thankful for as your strong support of friends are there for you when needed. The love of your life means you well and will stand by you through thick and thin. This summer make life for them as pleasant as they have made the year thus far, pleasant for you.

PISCES

You feel the urge to move or get away from it all. But is that really going to help? It is no ones fault that you are sexy and hence you have had the whole town. If needs be, move to the next city on your list. Just remember that you cannot run away from yourself.

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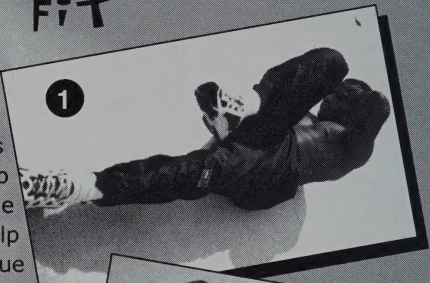

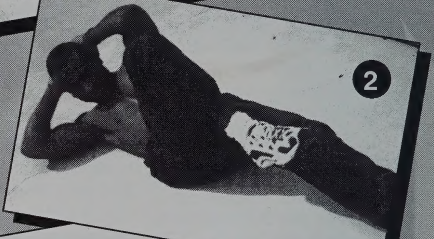

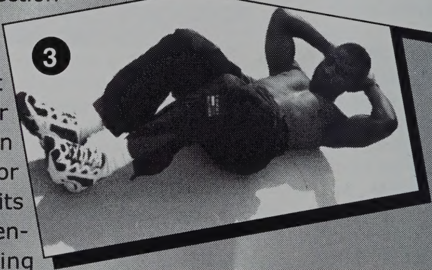

With so many body-conscience people in the world today, it's no wonder why health and fitness are top goals for all ages. Being fit means more than looking good. It's also about better health, nutrition, attitude and, perhaps, a better sex life. To help readers begin a fitness program, Clique will examine ways to rid that unwanted gut. But we caution that before starting any exercise program, consult your physician to determine your level of endurance and possible health risks.

Many people identify the abdominals, often referred to as ABs, as a sign of an individual's level of fitness. This midsection can either create stares or admiration or glares of disbelief. Keeping that area flat isn't always easy, but with regular maintenance, exercisers can sculpt a physical masterpiece for eyes to marvel. There are benefits to strong abs, too. They are essential for posture and preventing lower-back problems, which also make them a key t physical beauty and physical well-being. Anyone who exercise knows that basic sit-ups must be combined with other routines to achieve the so called six-pack appearance.

There are four different muscles groups that make up the abdominal area: the rectus, which are the center muscles of your stomach; the serratus, which cover the ribs; the oblique, which are located just over the hips; and the transverse abdominis, which is below the navel.

Although the perfect ab workout would consist of maximizing all four muscles, Clique will target the three common problem areas and list exercise routines to build those muscle groups.

1. Lower abs or transverse abdominis ***The exercise: Leg raises.*** This is done simply by lying flat on your back with your head up. Extend your legs straight out. Use the muscles of your lower abs to raise your legs until they are perpendicular to the body. Then lower the legs in the same controlled motion. Do three sets of 10 repetitions.

2. Obliques or love handles. ***The Exercise: Leg overs.*** This is done by lying flat on your back, hands spread out perpendicular to your body with left the leg fully extended and right leg straight up. Use your oblique muscles to cross your right leg toward your left hand. Lightly touch the floor with your heel, then cross the leg back to the straight-up starting position. Do three sets of 10 repetitions and switch legs. After mastering the exercise or if it's done with ease, maneuver both legs at the same time and use the same exercise method.

3. Rectus or upper abs. ***The Exercise: Crunches.*** These are done by lying flat on your back with knees up and feet flat on the floor. Position the hands behind the head. Use your ab muscles to lift your shoulders in a forward-curling motion and lower yourself back to the floor. Do three sets of 10 repetitions. A final note: Remember that "abs of steel" can be achieved and maintained only by being discipline with your diet and with a regular cardiovascular workout program. (Contributing to this report: "The Complete Book of ABS" by Kurt Brungardt)

ASK Bianca

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,1200 Mckinney St. Suite # 411-101, Houston Texas 77010.
Or email her C/o Clikquem@aol.com

Well Kids, the Summer heat in Texas is taking a toll on my relationship with Killer. He is very irritable these days so I just keep out of his way most of the time. Even in his misery he is still one sexy hunkasaurus and I am still very much in love. I however have learned how to cope with the heat. Stay inside is the word and keep the air on. One of my many suitors will pay the bill come month end. This months letters as usual were overwhelming but here are the choice three. By the way thanks for the gifts of love.

Dear Bianca,
My boyfriend of the last two months has decided that we should be just friends. He really means this and I can tell by the way he hugs me when we get together these days. Unlike other people who when they say let's be friends, this one seems to mean it. In the past, lets be friends usually meant, don't ever call me again. This time he is actually making an effort to be platonic friends and it is driving me crazy since I am very much in love with him still. What to do?
Caught up- in New York!

Dear Caught up!
Get a hold of yourself girl and take a firm grip. When people say these things they usually mean it and changing their minds is not usually a part of the plan. If the man says it, that means he has been thinking about it for at least a month. The first time killer dumped my ass he had already been involved with someone else for a whole month. I am not suggesting your man has moved on, only that he means what he says. It is a very difficult situation being friends with a man you are in love with but you only have two options. Accept the friendship and suffer while you get over him or kiss him good bye for a while and stay out of his way while you re-cooperate. I am sure your friends will be more than willing to help you through this time and if they don't, you can have killers place in my bed since he claims it is too hot for us to sleep together. Good luck girl and be good.
Love Bianca

Dear Bianca,
I have made a very sticky bed and now I am having difficulty sleeping in it. I slutted around and I had quite a few friends and roommates and other peoples boyfriends. Not only that, but I had boyfriends of friends of mine and their roommates as well. I caused a lot of chaos and confusion in many a households and then I got bit by the true love bug. My problem is that, as in all cities, mine included, gay people all know each other and are separated by less than six degrees. Now my past is back to haunt me. I find myself having to explain to my new love how and in what way I was involved with these people. I cannot tell him the truth for fear he will leave me. What am I supposed to do?
Haunted by my past- Mississippi.

Dear Mississippi,
If you were a true pro you would never have to be explaining anything to your new boyfriend. Here is my advice. All that happened before he came along is your business and all that has happened since, is yours and his jointly. Because people are nosy and faggits are fierce and will be telling him all they know, I would suggest that you purge on you own. Make him a great dinner, buy him something diamond, then very nonchalantly tell him who you slept with and how horrible they all were. Tell him how he has tamed you and how sorry you feel for having wasted so much time on those good-for-nothings. With a full stomach and a diamond he will be too relaxed to argue. As my grandmother used to say, "hunger fuels anger." Come clean, this way he will be able to tell the gossip mongers that he is well aware of what you used to do. In order to appear credible though, you will need to stop slutting around in case someone decides to get messy and tell him that you are still living a loose life. Sorry honey, but every hoe has his day and today seems to be yours.
Good Luck, - Bianca.

Dear Bainca,
I recently relocated myself to Houston, Texas, from New York City. Houston isn't exactly the cultural Mecca of the western world, much unlike New York. While I have adjusted to most of the strange southern customs of Texans, I must say that I am homesick for some Boriquen dick. I have found few Latinos to bump wallets with in my new neighborhood, and don't know where to look. Even the Baptist church I attend has no papis to offer, and you know how good and god-fearing some Puerto Ricans can be. So where, in this hell called Houston, can I find myself some uncut Latin trade?
Anita Bicho

Dear Seõrita Bicho
Here's what you have to do: Make your way to your local Catholic Church and before you know it you'll be walking down the aisle with a hot uncut papi chulo. Unfortunately he might be Mexican and not Rican but that's okay; it's just different spices but basically the same flavor, although Ricans are tastier. Here's wishing you much skin.

Let Bianca Help You With Your Problems.

Write Now!

Stepping Out

YOUR PREMIER GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below.

ATLANTA

ARMORY, 836 Juniper, Atlanta 30309, 404-881-9280.

LORETTA'S, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta 30308, 404-874-8125.

OTHERSIDE, 1924 Piedmont Rd., Atlanta 30324, 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

PALACE, 13 Simpson St., Atlanta

WORLD CLUB/TRAXX, 306 Luckie St., N.W., Atlanta 30313, 404-681-5033 Black and gay on Saturday. Straight on Thursday and Friday.

CHICAGO

BATON SHOW LOUNGE, 436 N. Clark St., Chicago 60610, 312-644-5269.

BERLIN, 954 W. Belmont, Chicago 60657, 773-348-4975. Blackest on third Sunday of month..

FACES, 130 N. 4th St., East St. Louis 62201, 618-271-7410.

GENERATOR, 306 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60661, 312-243-8889.

GENTRY ON RUSH, 712 N. Rush St., Chicago 60611, 312-664-1033. Blackest on Saturday.

GENTRY ON HALSTED, 3320 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

JEFFREY PUB, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago 60649, 773-363-8555.

LITTLE JIM'S, 3501 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-871-6116. Blackest on Saturday.

NUTBUSH CITY LIMITS, 301 N. Harlem Ave., Forest Park 60130, 708-366-5117.

ROSCOE'S TAVERN & CAFE, 3354-6 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-281-3355.

DALLAS

METRO, 2204 Elm St., Dallas 75201, 214-742-2101. (Mail: Box 1187, Dallas, TX 75221). manoman226 @aol.com

TRAXX, 1920 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas 75215, 214-421-8181.

VILLAGE STATION, 3911 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75219, 214-526-0690.

HOUSTON

INCOGNITO, 2524 McKinney St., Houston 77003, 713-237-9431.

RASCALS, 1318 Westheimer, 77006. 713-942-CLUB

MIAMI/FT. LAUD.

BOARDWALK, 17008 Collins Ave. N., North Miami Beach 33160, 305-354-8617.

CLUB OBSESSIONS, 7900 N.E. First Ave., Miami 33138.

COPA NIGHTCLUB, 2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 33316. Blackest on Sunday.

ON THE WATERFRONT, 3615 N.W. South River Dr., Miami 33142, 305-635-5500. Blackest on Tuesday.

SUGAR'S, 17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami 33160-3113, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

NEW YORK

CLIT CLUB, 432 W. 14th St., New York 10014, 212-406-1114. Fridays only. Women.

KELLERS, 384 West St., New York 10014, 212-243-1907.

MANHATTAN MONSTER, 80 Grove St., New York 10014, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT, 1 Front St., Brooklyn 11201, 718-852-0139.

OCTAGON, 555 W. 33rd St., New York 10001, 212-947-0400.

RED ZONE, 2018 45th St., Astoria 11105-1230.

SOUND FACTORY, 618 W. 46th St., New York 10001, 212-643-0728. Blackest on Saturday.

TWO POTATO, 143 Christopher St., New York 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

ORLANDO / TAMPA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE***, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32805, 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS****, 375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando 32803, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

TRACKS, 1430 E. 7th Ave., Tampa 33605, 813-247-2711. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

WASHINGTON DC

BACHELOR'S MILL, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-1931.

CIRCLE AKA RASCAL'S, 1629 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 20036, 202-462-5575. Blackest Friday and Saturday nights, and Sunday afternoon.

DELTA ELITE, 3734 10th St., N.E., Washington 20017, 202-529-0626. Gay on Friday and Saturday.

EDGE, 56 L St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

MR. P'S, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-9009.

TRACKS 2000, 1111 - 1st St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-3320. Blackest on Sunday. Mostly black Womyn's Night last Tuesday of month..

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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September 2nd-5th, 1998

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Hosted By
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Rande Rochelle

to be held at
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Wednesday
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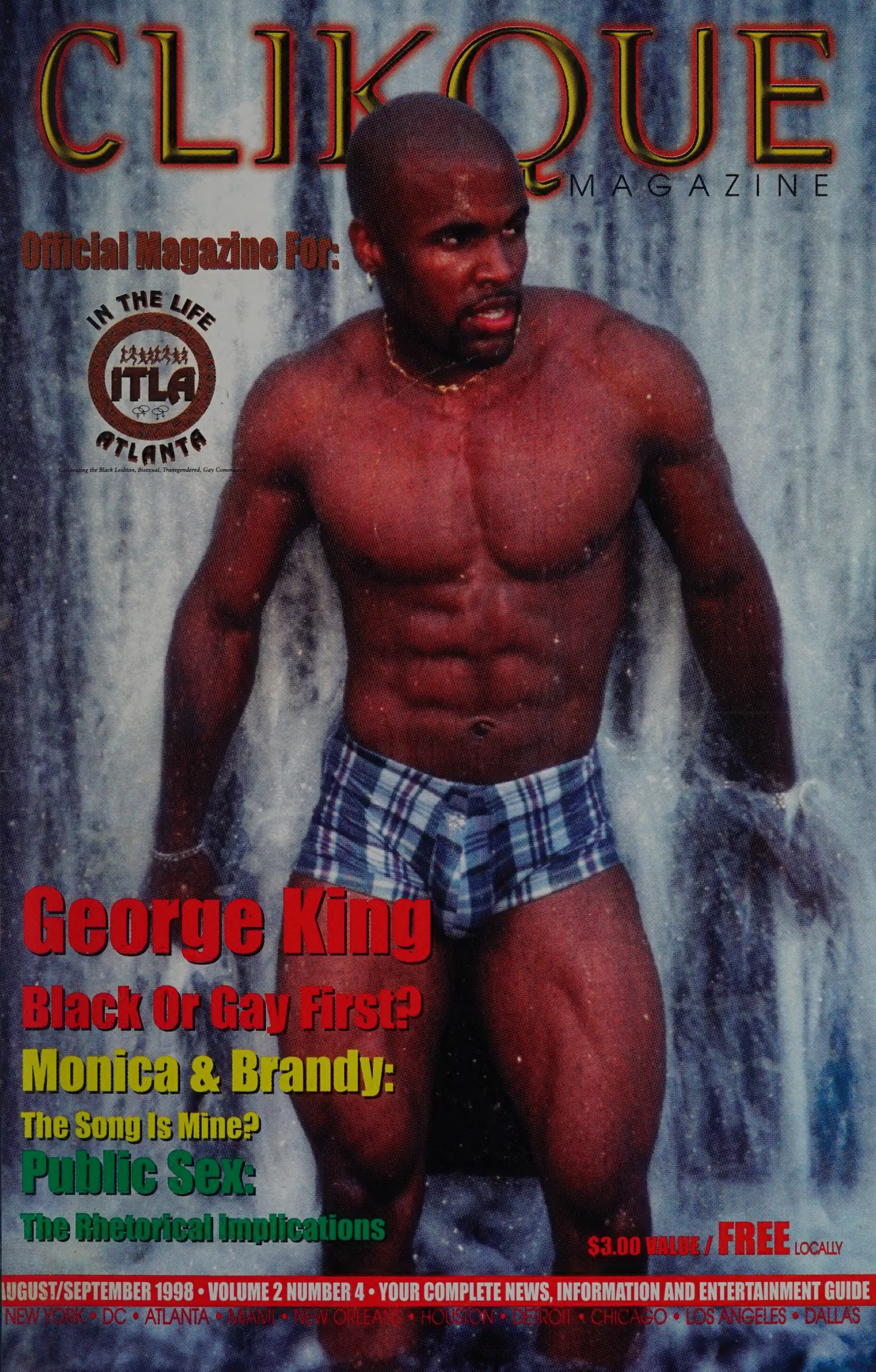

George King

Black Or Gay First?

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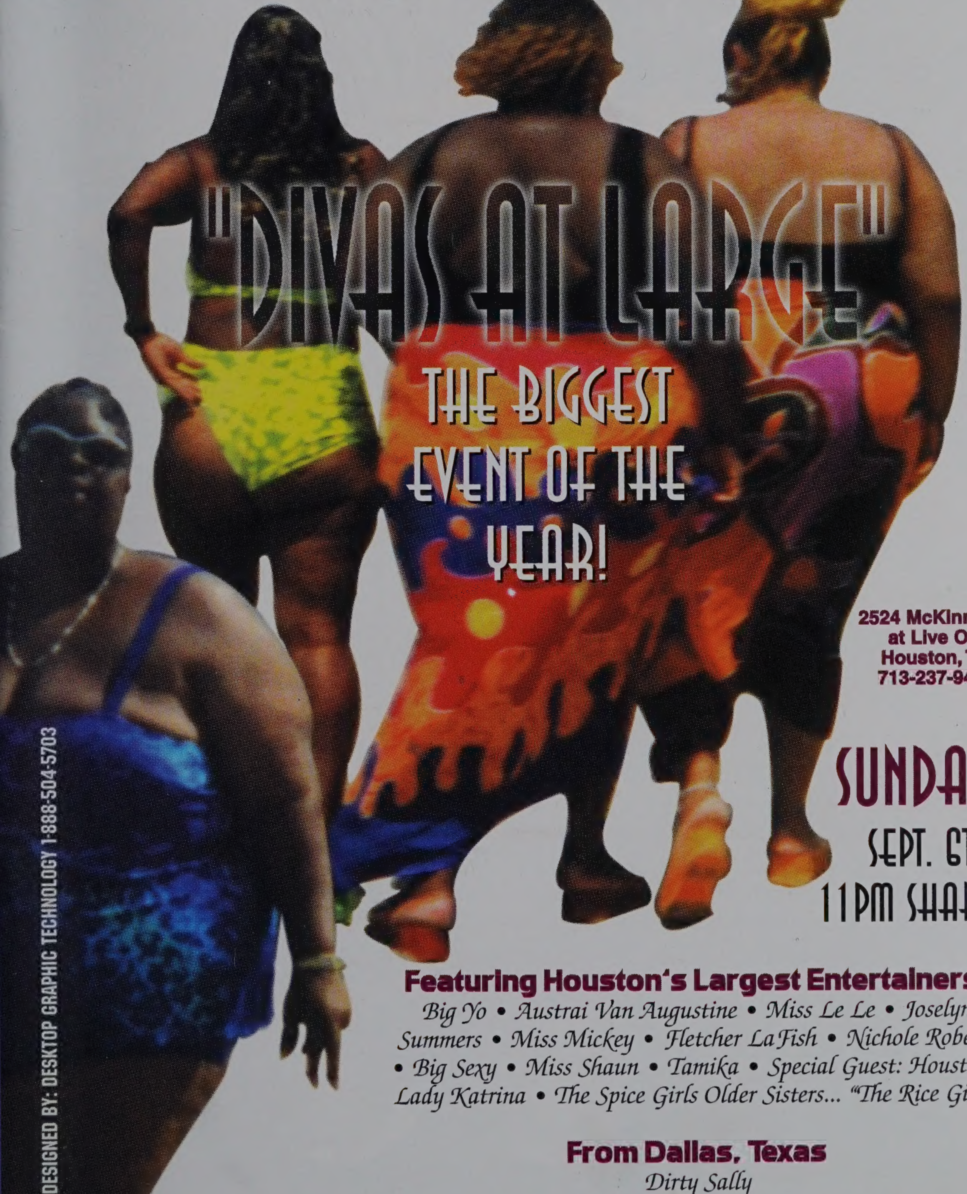

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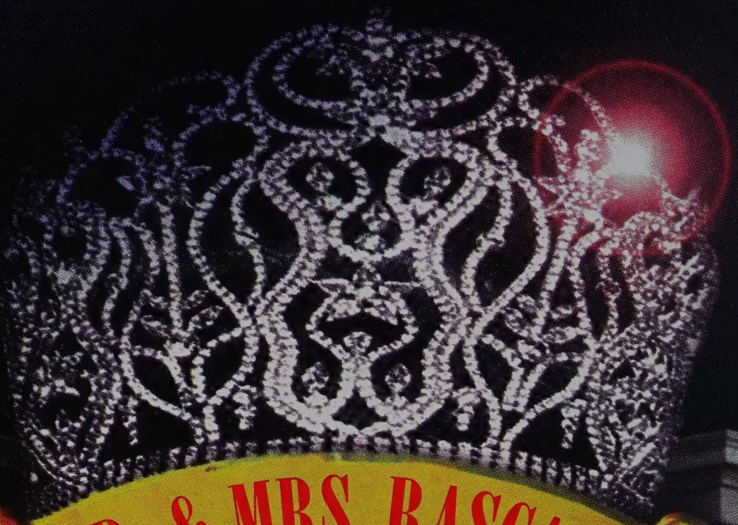

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CLIKQUE
AUG/SEPT 1998 • VOL 2 ISSUE 4

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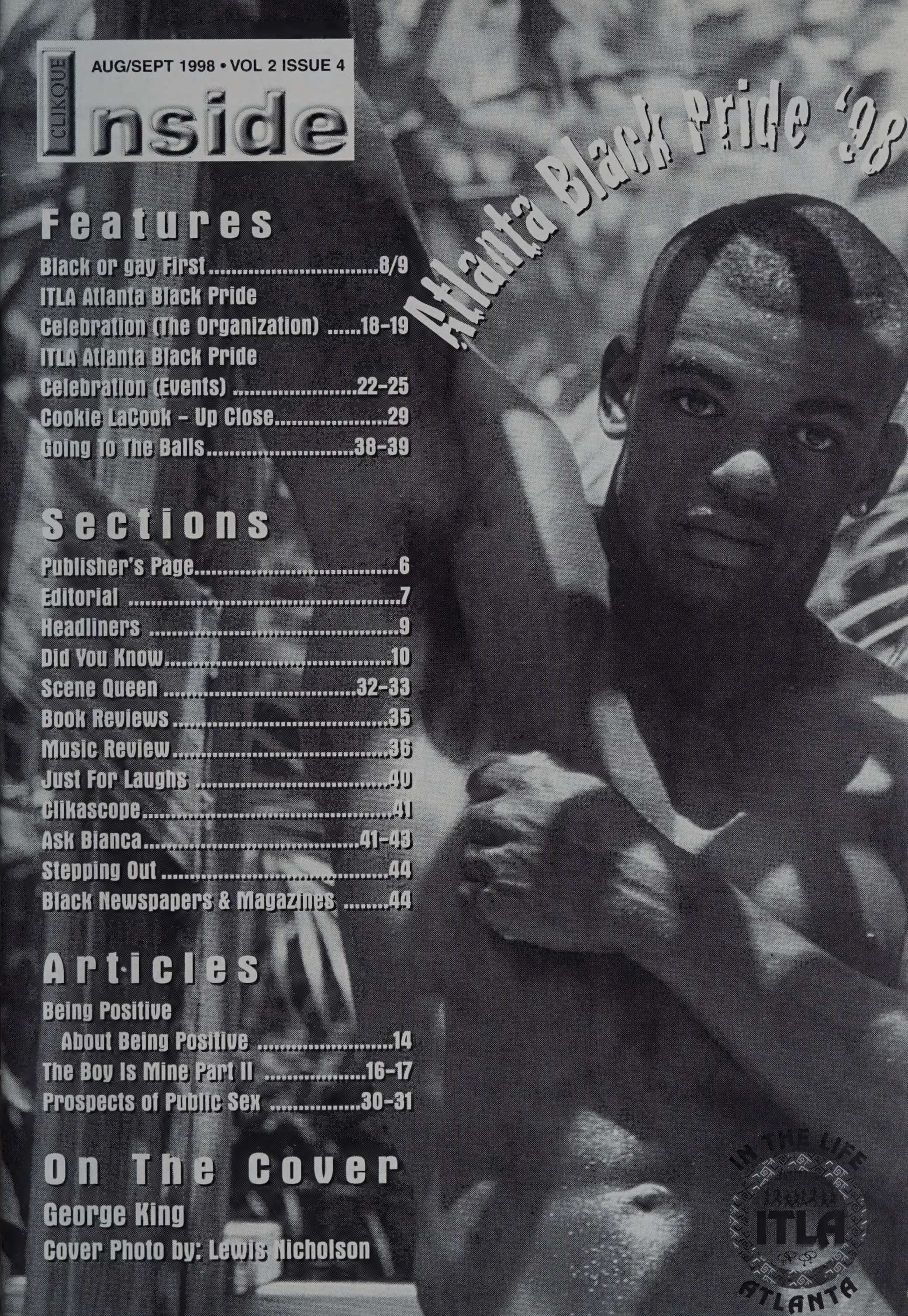
Atlanta Black Pride '98



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George King
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Your Complete News, Information and Entertainment Guide

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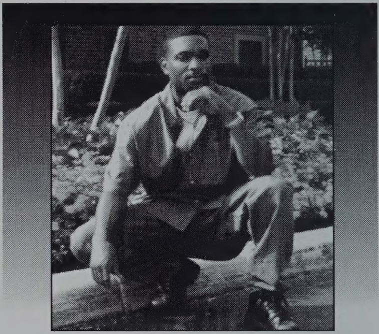
Message From The Pub.



Well here it is, another issue of Clikque Magazine. This issue of Clikque promises to educate, enlighten, entertain and inform you, our valued readers.

If for whatever reason, after thumbing through these pages, we weren't able to live up to our promises or your expectations, please let us know. We would like to hear from you. Inform us of the changes or additions that you might find necessary in order for us to peek your interest. And, If we left you salivating for more, let us know that too.

At Clikque Magazine, we strive at providing you with the best in print quality, content and computer generated graphics. We value you as a reader and realize that without your participation, this venture will not be a complete success. Our magazine, which serves African Americans "in the life", is by far, the best of it's kind in our industry, and with your continued support, we will remain on top. Although the contents will change from month-to-month, our format, print quality and visually-pleasing presentation will remain consistent.

Finally, I extend sincere gratitude and appreciation to The Board and Planning Committee of In The Life Atlanta, Inc., for choosing Clikque as the Official Magazine for the 1998 Atlanta Gay Pride Celebration. I trust that we were able to meet and exceed your greatest expectations.

EDITORIAL

LEWIS NICHOLSON — *Editor-In-Chief*

Two Bodies were fished out of the pond in Prospect Park and one was found in the trunk of a car in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn within the past month. The reason these otherwise, gut wrenching news worthy crimes have not made the evening news is that the victims are gay, and black. Added to that, is the possibility that one of the victims is from the caribbean. As a fellow journalist buddy of mine puts it, "who cares about a dead Jamaican queen?"

While America does not seem to care about gays and what happens to them in public places, it is tickled to death by the President's sex life. When was the last time you've flicked the channel to your television and not see Monica Lewinsky or her lawyer with yet another claim? Even gospel radio stations broadcast the details of that ongoing saga in just about every news brief but, to date, not a word on the Prospect Park slayings and the possibility that one of the victims could have been a popular New York disco or an absolutely gorgeous model.

The atrocities committed on gays by society are unbelievable but those we commit against ourselves are undeniably equally unjust. When we sit back and drive our dying friends into seclusion from fear of shame, or back home to parents who have not seen them in years, that, to me, that is equal to the Prospect Park murders. Why should parents who have been practically ignored while the gay children live it up with their gay families be burdened with the responsibility of watching them die? The people who spent their friends money when they were healthy and used their bodies and their cars should show some love as these angels make the journey into eternity. When we let AIDS walk after AIDS walk and benefit after benefit pass us by, without making a decent contribution, that is tantamount to murder. When one knowingly puts another at risk by engaging in unsafe sexual practices, which involve the exchange of bodily fluids, then one has committed yet another murder. The genocide that is the AIDS epidemic is far from over and in the black community, where we are in so much denial, the worse is yet to come.

At Clikque we try to present the pretty side of the gay life style because the real issues can be very depressing. We, however, cannot ignore the harsh realities of the life we live. Pages are dedicated to Beautiful people and the glitz and glamour that surrounds this lifestyle. This month, however, we are proud to present one man's view on the issue of disclosure. To tell or not to tell is the question. However the issue has many sides. The most often repeated retort is "but is he ready to deal with the truth if I tell him?" The decision is a personal one but none-the-less a worthwhile reflection.

While the mystery of the Prospect Park murders may never be solved, as some speculate that the cops did it to get the fags out of the park, we can take control of our own destinies. We can rally for our rights, join the war against AIDS and respect our selves and those whom we profess to love.Believe it or not, many a meaningful relationships were forged at a rally , on a march, or while sharing a cell for demonstrating for your rights. Since we are so caught up in finding Mr. Right , wouldn't it be nice to know that your next boyfriend cares about something besides himself?

Letters To The Editor:
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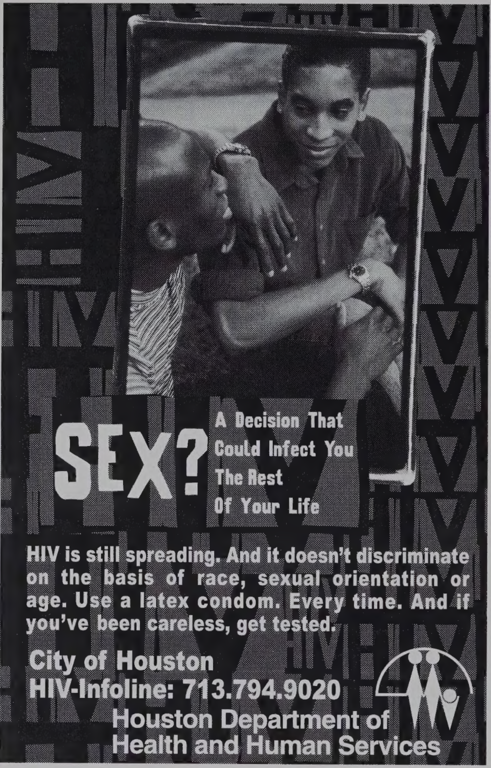
Houston Texas 77010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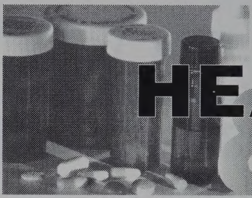

HEALTH & AIDS ASSISTANCE

CALIFORNIA

African-American Men's Health Project, 74 New Montgomery St. #600, San Francisco 94105, 415-597-9137.

African-American AIDS, Support Services and Survival Institute, 351 - 15th St., Oakland 94612-3303, 510-433-9377, 510-835-4206 (fax).

AIDS Project of the East Bay, 651 - 20th St., Oakland 94612, 510-834-8181.

AIDS Prevention Team, 1219 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90019, 213-964-7820, 213-964-7830 (fax).

Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project, 405 Hilgard Ave., Box 951563, Los Angeles 90095-1563, 310-825-9858.

Brothers Network, 973 Market St. #650, San Francisco 94103, 415-356-8140, 415-356-8156 (fax).

HIV Survival Group for People of Color, IKUNU Program, 220 N. Euclid Ave. #130, San Diego 92114, 619-527-2477.

Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 90016, 213-936-4949, 213-936-4973 (fax).

National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, 973 Market St. #600, San Francisco 94103, 415-356-8100, 415-356-8103 (fax), 415-356-8138 (fax), ntfap@aol.com

People of Color AIDS Survival Effort, 3177 Ocean View Blvd., San Diego 92113, 619-231-9300.

Positive Connection, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 90016, 213-936-4949, 213-936-4973 (fax).

Project WARN, 5601 W. Slauson Ave. #200, Culver City 90230, 213-641-7795.

Third World AIDS Advisory Task Force, 10 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco 94102, 415-487-8000.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HIV Support Group for African/American Men and Women, Whitman-Walker Clinic,1407 S St., N.W., Washingon 20007, 202-797-3591.

Intergroup Minority Project: AIDS Consortium and Trust (IMPACT), 300 I St., N.E. #301, Washington 20002, 202-5-IMPACT.

National Minority AIDS Council, 1931 - 13th St., N.W., Washington 20009, 202-483-6622, 202-483-1135 (fax), nmac2@aol.com

Us Helping Us: People into Living, 819 L St., S.E., Washington 20003-3650, 202-842-1337, 202-547-1258 (fax).

GEORGIA

AIDS Education and Services for Minorities, 1432 Donnelly Ave., S.W., Atlanta 30310, 404-753-2900, 404-752-9610 (fax).

Brothers Back-2-Back, Box 7721, Atlanta 30357-0721.

ILLINOIS

Brotherrs Projects, 6540 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago 60637, 773-667-8313.

Minority Outreach Intervention Project, 1255 S. Wabash #2S, Chicago 60605, 312-986-0661, 312-986-0928 (fax).

Men of Color Against AIDS, 95 Berkeley St., 3rd Fl., Boston 02116, 617-423-6622, 617-423-4278 (fax).

Multicultural AIDS Coalition, 801 Tremont St. #B, Boston 02119-1065,617-442-1622, 716-442-6622 (fax), multia@aol.com

MICHIGAN

Project Survival, 1150 Griswold, Detroit 48226, 313-961-2027, 313-961-0780 (fax).

NEW YORK

Caribbean Women's Health Assoc., 244 Utica Ave., Brooklyn 11213, 718-826-2942.

Haitian Coalition on AIDS, 50 Court St. #605, Brooklyn 11201, 718-855-7275.

Majority Action Committee, ACT-UP, Box 7932, New York 10150.

Men of Color AIDS Prevention, Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #1100, Box 67, New York 10013, 212-788-4310, 212-788-9661 (fax).

Minority Task Force on AIDS, 475 Riverside Dr. #1374, New York 10115,
212-870-2691, 212-870-2607 (fax).

People of Color in Crisis, 462 Bergen St., Brooklyn 11217, 718-230-0770,
718-230-7582 (fax).

VOCAL, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York 10013, 212-566-4995.

PENNSYLVANIA

Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI), 1233 Locust St. #401, Philadelphia 19107-5414, 215-546-4140.

TEXAS

Renaissance II, Brother 2 Brother Project, 2606 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.#203, Dallas 75215-6397, 214-421-4343, 214-421-2140 (fax).

VIRGINIA

Community HIV/AIDS Prevention Services, 1224 Princess St., Alexandria 22314, 703-549-4232, 703-768-9665 (fax).

HIV/AIDS HEADLINERS

AIDS conference sounds alarm over rich-poor divide

Children are the silent victims

GENEVA (CNN) — The theme of the 12th World AIDS Conference may have been "bridging the gap," but the message that emerged seemed just the opposite: the gap between the haves and the have-nots in this global epidemic is only widening.

The conference ended Friday with a call to arms to help extend the benefits of recent of medical breakthroughs to the majority of HIV-infected people, who live in the developing world and are mostly left without up-to-date medical treatment.

The United Nations' AIDS program warned this week that most of the 30.6 million people currently infected will die within 10 years if they do not receive proper treatment.

While increasing use in industrialized countries of expensive drug cocktails has raised life expectancy among some AIDS sufferers, such treatment remains little more than a dream for the more than 90 percent of victims who live in the developing world.

"Millions of children and adults are becoming infected, falling ill and dying without the barest essentials in medical treatment, counseling or social support," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in his address to the conference.

"Bridge the gap?" asked Dodji Mathey of Togo, one of the 13,000 participants at the week-long AIDS conference in this Swiss city. "I don't think so. It is not possible for the new medicines to ever get to Africa. We are too poor." 90 percent of those infected with HIV virus live in developing countries

Treating just one HIV-infected person with the standard three-drug cocktail costs $10,000 or more. According to one estimate at the conference, making this protocol available worldwide would cost $36.5 billion, two-thirds of that expense coming from Africa.

According to the experts at the conference, the best hope for ending the global AIDS epidemic is development and testing of a reliable vaccine which would keep people from contracting that disease. But Dr. Robert Gallo, one of the discoverers of the virus, said that target was still some time away.

The inequities in treatment and care between rich and poor nations also affects children. In some rural areas of East Africa, for instance, four of every 10 children will have lost one of their parents by the age of 15. The latest research shows it is possible to reduce the incidence of mother-to-child HIV transmission

Carol Bellamy, executive director of the U.N. Children's Fund, warned that the number of children who will ultimately lose one or both parents to AIDS is likely to reach a total of over 40 million by the year 2010.

Those whose parents are still alive are shouldering a sometimes unbearable burden if one or more parents is suffering from AIDS.

"Children of just eight years old are looking after dying parents as well as one, two or three younger siblings," said Charles Thumi, who works in a hospice in Kenya.

Last year alone, around 600,000 children contracted HIV, in most cases transmitted to them by their mothers in childbirth or via breast-feeding.

The U.N. AIDS program said it would start a pilot project to provide the effective anti-AIDS drug known as AZT to about 30,000 women in poor countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

Highlights from the 12th World AIDS Conference

GENEVA (CNN) — Here are the highlights from Thursday's sessions at the

12th World AIDS conference.

- Powerful drug treatments that cripple the spread of the HIV virus may also allow a body's weakened immune system to rebound, shows research presented at the conference. Dr. Brigitte Autran of Pitie Salpetriere Hospital in Paris said measurements showing that white blood cells, the main target of the AIDS virus, increase soon after drug treatment are a hopeful sign. "We are now providing proof that, indeed, the immune system is not dead," she said.

- An AIDS-prevention program costing the equivalent of one percent of the U.S. defense budget could cut in half the number of new HIV infections in the developing world, said research Stephen Morin of the University of California. He said low-cost measures, totaling about $2.6 billion, could dramatically slow the global expansion of the AIDS virus. His proposed program includes marketing condoms, education, needle-exchange programs and screening blood supplies.

- Health officials from Asian nations said the economic crisis of the region is likely to hamper government efforts to fight AIDS, a disease that is predicted to spread rapidly in their countries over the next few years. Marina Mahathir of the Malaysian AIDS Council said the epidemic could, in turn, drag down economic recovery.

- Speakers at the conference said ending discrimination against HIV-positive people is necessary to stop the spread of the virus. Delegates said infected people faces obstacles across the world including job discrimination and denied access to medical care. "People won't come forward if they face being killed in the streets," said Susan Paxton of APN-plus, an organization that tracks human rights abuses against HIV-positive people.

- Experts at the conference said not enough attention is given to the effects of the AIDS epidemic on the world's children. It was reported that more than eight million children have been orphaned by AIDS and more that a million are HIV-infected. In some rural areas of East Africa, four in ten children will have lost at least one of their parents to the AIDS virus by age 15.

Clikque Magazine 1998
Entertainer of the Year

The Clikque Magazine first annual Entertainer of the Year contest, which took place in Houston, Texas, was a resounding success as stars from across the South gathered to do battle. It was one petite bombshell from Memphis that walked away with the coveted title and the cash. Doing a medley of Patti Labelle songs with the vibrance that only New York's Victoria Lace can bring to a stage, Alicia kelly made her claim on that title as early as the preliminaries. The other contestants, having seen what they were up against, came prepared to devour and slay her in the finals. The contest was very close on finals night and Ms. Kelly had to pull out all the stops as Houston's Marlo Hunter, and Yolanda Adams almost snagged her crown. Congratulations Alicia Kelly, you are truly talented.

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Ms. Alicia Kelly

DIDYOUKNOW?

THE BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN CIRCUIT EVENTS OF THE YEAR

— JANUARY —

MARTIN LUTHER KING- JR.

(Holiday Weekend)
Atlanta, GA

— FEBRUARY —

MARDI GRAS

(Fat Tuesday- February 24th)
New Orleans, LA

— APRIL —

PENN RELAYS

Philadelphia, PA

— MAY —

HOUSTON SPLASH

Houston, TX

BLACK GAY PRIDE

(Memorial Day Weekend)
Washington, DC

— JUNE —

BLACK GAY PRIDE

Memphis, TN
Baltimore, MD
Pride Weekend
New York City
San Francisco, CA
Toronto, ON

— JULY —

THE BEACH PARTY

(Independence Day Weekend)
Los Angeles, CA

BLACK GAY PRIDE

(Independence Day Weekend)
Chicago, IL
Black Gay Pride
Detroit, MI

— AUGUST —

BLACK GAY PRIDE

Cleveland, OH

— SEPTEMBER —

LABOR DAZE

(Labor Day Weekend)
September 4 - 6
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— OCTOBER —

BLACK GAY PRIDE

Dallas, TX

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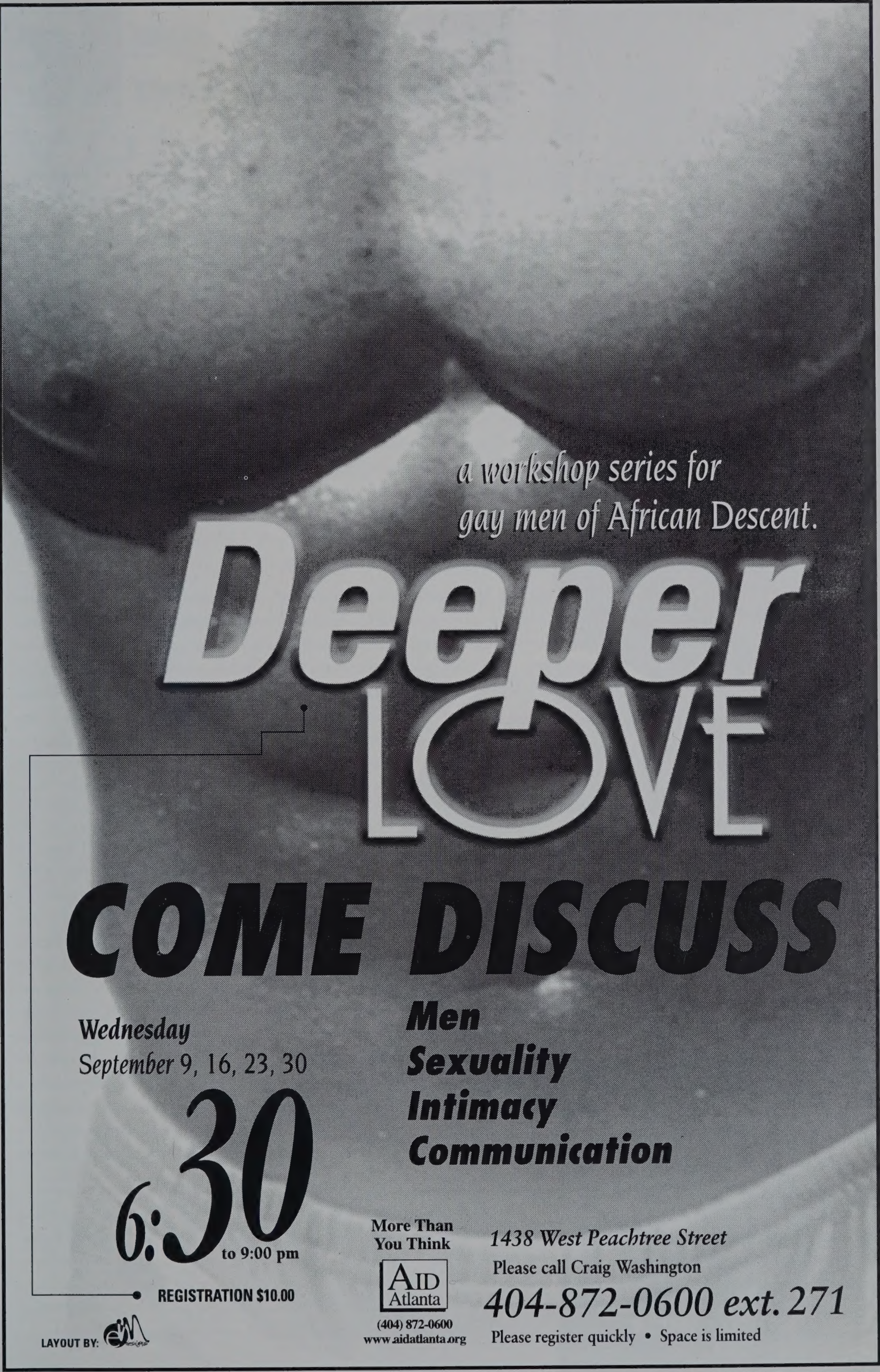

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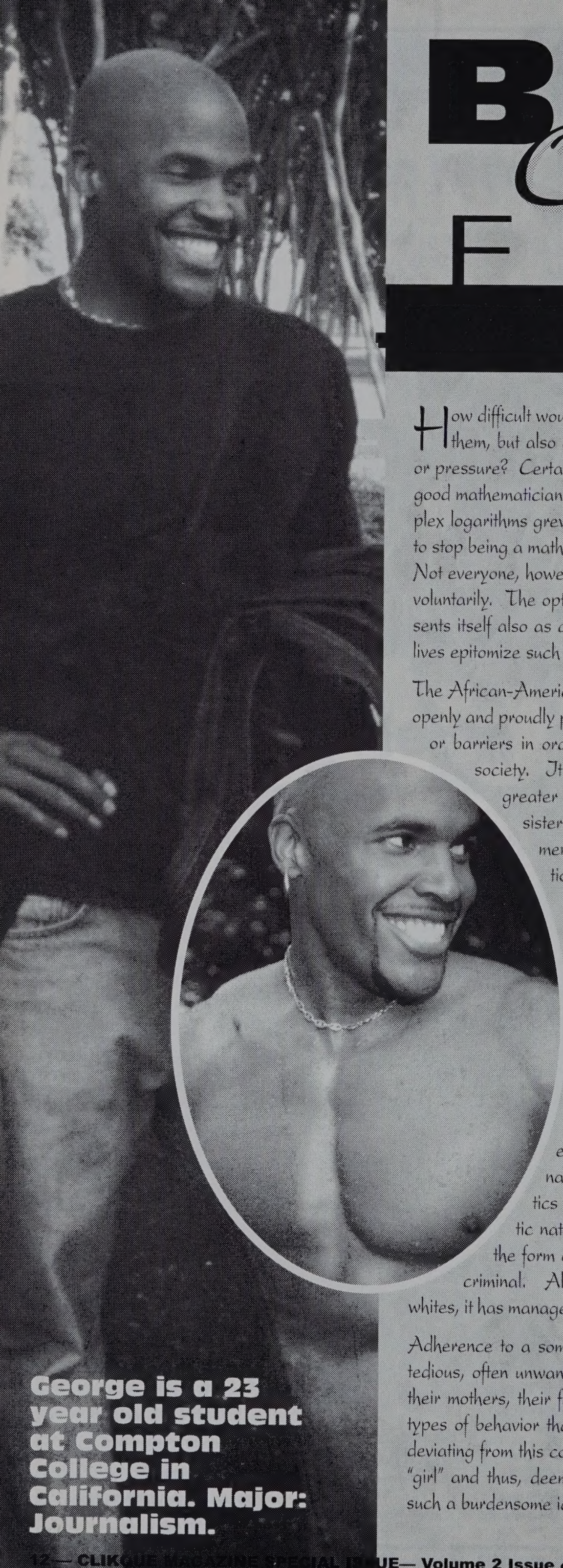
Black Or Gay FIRST

By The Coverboy GEORGE KING



George is a 23 year old student at Compton College in California. Major: Journalism.

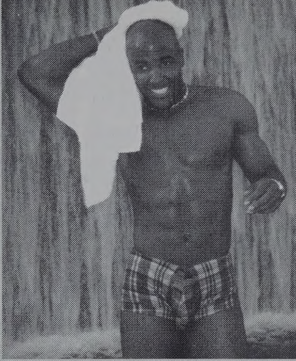
How difficult would it be to do two things at the same time? Not only doing them, but also doing the two things with relative ease free from ridicule or pressure? Certainly not a difficult feat if the two tasks were, say, being a good mathematician and a computer freak. If the pressures of working complex logarithms grew too tedious, the above-mentioned nerd would only have to stop being a mathematician and focus solely on cracking computer viruses. Not everyone, however, who maintains a dual existence and lifestyle does so voluntarily. The option of ending one in the name of making life easier presents itself also as a non-option. Black gay men are such creatures whose lives epitomize such a bleak reality.

The African-American male with the courage, nerve or intestinal fortitude to openly and proudly profess his own homosexuality has to face many obstacles or barriers in order to peacefully exist in our ever-increasing intolerant society. It could even be argued that these difficulties are much greater than those faced by his fellow African-American lesbian sisters or his fellow Caucasian gay-identified brothers (statement based solely on, admittedly biased, personal observation).

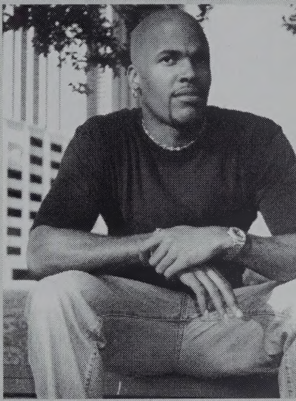
The black gay man, must initially wage war against a societal notion that explicitly relays the message that black men will amount to nothing. He must also deal with that same society as it tries to render him invisible by keeping him silent or mute. Once he gets pass that (if he ever really does), the black man, who is gay, must carry the burden of a stereotype that has been passed down since slavery. Since slavery and the many years following, the black man has been held to an exaggerated hyper-masculine ideal. He was muscle, raw power, naturally adept with his hands and all of these characteristics were seasoned with the black man's "inherent" animalistic nature. In more modern times this ideal is represented in the form of the athlete, the rapist, the drug dealer, or simply, the criminal. Although this ideal was generated and perpetuated by whites, it has managed to seep into the psyche of the black culture as a whole.

Adherence to a sometimes-unrealistic definition of masculinity becomes the tedious, often unwanted, objective of young black males. They are told by their mothers, their fathers, their sisters and brothers that there are certain types of behavior that will be tolerated and expected. Any such behavior deviating from this concept is to go under the label of "sissy," "fag," punk," or "girl" and thus, deemed unacceptable. Imagine or consider the pressure such a burdensome ideal creates for black men period- gay or straight.

Now for those who are either unable or unwilling to imagine the effects of such pressure, allow me to give testimony from my own life. I grew up in Compton, California and even before I had met, seen, talked to or heard of a white person, I was called a "fag" or a "sissy." It wasn't necessarily because I was outwardly feminine or girl-like (or was I?), but largely due to my eccentricity. I was athletic. I just didn't play football or basketball (the two pastimes that defined manliness on my block). I didn't walk with the exaggerated, ersatz limp young black wannabe gangsters adopted in vain attempts to appear tough or cool. As a result of my precocious knack for repudiating conformity, I was told, on several occasions, I must sadly add, that I "walked like a girl." Walking wasn't the only activity I seemed to sprinkle with large doses of femininity either.

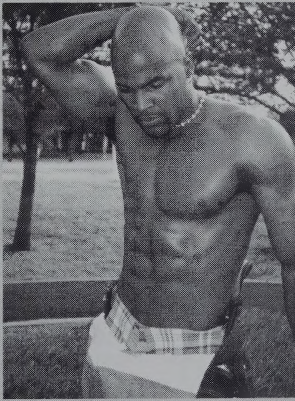


Running, talking, hitting, catching, and fighting were all such endeavors whereupon if I decided to take on, were met with incessant derision and taunts from neighborhood boys, girls and even some of their parents (mine was a tough and unforgiving neighborhood). Although today in my early 20's, I can look back on those years with humor and even nostalgic fondness, though while I was living through them, it was pure and utter hell. I remember vividly wondering in exasperated desperation, "What in hell must I do to be normal?" "Why don't people like me?" or "Why am I being punished?"

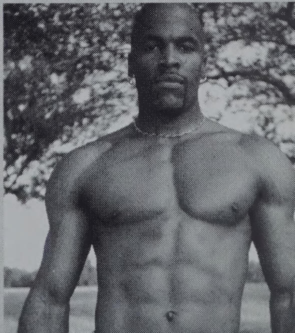


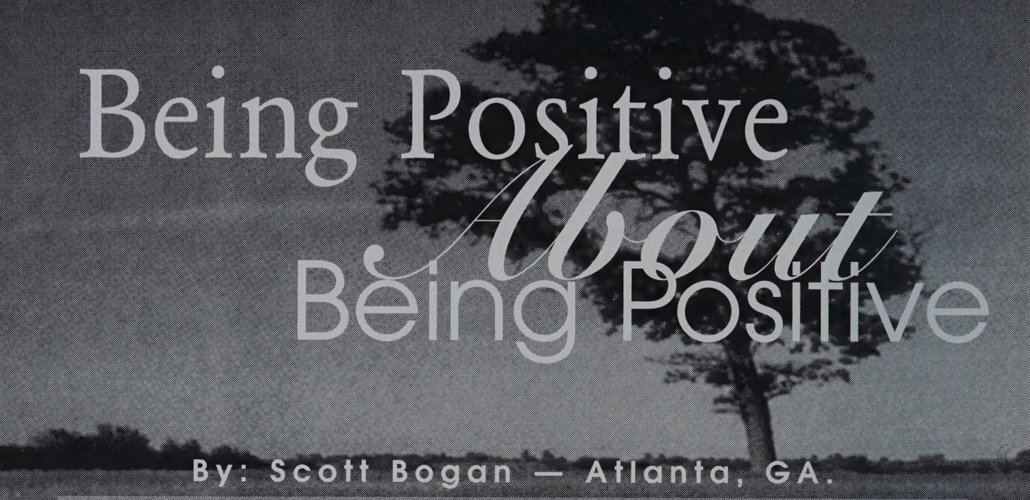
This brief digression into "The Perils of a Young Gay Boy" was not at all a clever attempt to elicit compassion from the readers (O.K. maybe just a little). It was primarily done to illustrate some of the grave difficulties experienced by young gay black males from within our own communities. This is to say nothing of problems faced by said individuals once introduced to the rest of the world; an arena where race figures highly in the way one is treated.

The expectations of some sort of super masculinity placed on black men puts the black gay man in a precarious situation. Black gay men, as do all men, have the ability to be masculine (whatever that truly means). The inclusion of homosexuality doesn't automatically exclude the possibility of masculinity. The problem is created by society. According to our society, a man loving another man is the apotheosis of a man's loss of masculinity. In our greatly male-chauvinistic largely misogynist American culture, one of the worst things that can be done by a man is to give up his masculinity (or become more lady-like). It is because of this country's warped, sadistic view of what it means to be masculine, that the black man is held to be the most masculine. The gay black man, then, represents a type of oxymoron, a contradiction or, more caustic, in the tradition of our typically church-run black communities, an abomination. The black gay man then receives no sympathy or empathy for his troubles from either the white or black communities for he has "chosen" (and I use that word facetiously) to give up one of society's most revered and valued traits - a vaulted masculinity.



"It was the best of times; It was the worst of times," is how Ernest Hemingway opened his classic A Tale of Two Cities and no more appropriate words could be used to describe the truly bipolar atmosphere created for black gay men today. On the one hand, as black men, we are enjoying a period in time where advancement or upward mobility is becoming less and less of a problem. A great sign of the times, is that if we as black men are unhappy with our living or working conditions, there are definite means by which to exact change. On the other hand, as gay black men, we appear to be at the beginning of a long uphill struggle to obtain civil and human rights. The truly shameful aspect of this situation is that though we are black, we can expect very little, if any, help or encouragement from major African-American civil rights' leaders or the mainstream black population. This last fact only makes our fight more formidable not impossible. Most people fail to realize that we gay black men were a large part of the Movement in the 60's. We gay black men even rioted in Los Angeles after the infamous Rodney King verdict. Hell we gay black men were even counted among the hundreds of thousands of Africans snatched from our homelands and brought to this country. I list all these achievements for one purpose: to remind everyone that before we were gay, "girls," "sissies" or "fags" we were and are black men. If history has taught anything, it has been that black men act, black men fight, but most importantly, black men survive.





Being Positive *About* Being Positive

By: Scott Bogan — Atlanta, GA.

In June of 1996, I learned that I was HIV positive. Ironically, what made me get tested was that I was watching a very close friend of mine die of AIDS. The fact that he had not yet come to terms with his own sexuality, coupled with his unsupportive family forced him to keep this very important part of his life a secret. When I learned that I was HIV positive, I decided this was not going to be my approach. I had watched too many of my friends pass away carrying this secret until their last breath. Why, I ask, is it such a secret?

I am not unaware of the fact that most families are not like mine: upper middle class, both parents together for 31 years, aware and supportive of their HIV positive gay son. I realize that most families are bringing their own issues and upbringing to the table which does not allow them to see love, but only what they have been taught, which is that our lifestyle is wrong. But why is it such a secret from our friends?

One of the first things that I did after learning of my status was inform my friends. The reason I told my friends is because I wanted them to rally around me with love and support. Being an only child, my friends have always been, and still are, my support system. Upon disclosing my status to a couple of my friends, I learned of their own. This troubled me for a minute because it made me question whether or not I had been a good friend. Until I realized that the reason we became friends in the first place was because of the commonalities that we shared. This issue that they had was not an issue they had with me, but with themselves. But what they did not realize is that sometimes friends can help you work through these issues. All that was needed was faith, trust and a belief in the reason that we became friends in the first place.

This virus has been such a blessing to me. It has forced me to face my own mortality and challenges me to accept every day as a gift that is not to be taken for granted. Trust me, I have not always felt that it was a blessing. I have been on and off of medication, battle with depression and for a long period of time, felt as though I had been cursed. It was not until I started to value my own life that I realized that this virus is just another thread that makes up my being. It does not define me. It does not say anything about my beliefs, my ethics or my values. All it says is that I made a choice to share my body with someone else and not use protection. And because of this choice I am supposed to suffer in silence?

As black gay men we share so many things. We share laughter; we share good times and bad. Some of us will even share men from time to time but we won't share our experiences with life. I challenge all of you to share with one another. Open yourselves up and learn from your friends' experiences. It can be such a blessing!!

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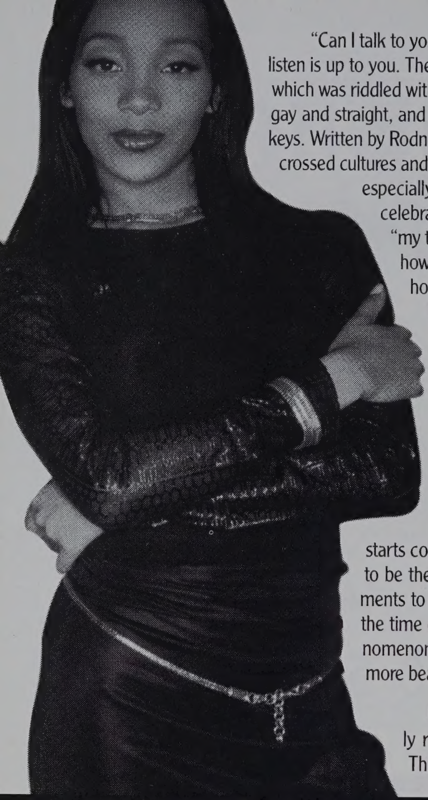
No, No, No! Not yours! Mine, Mine, Mine!

By: Lewis Nicholson



"Can I talk to you for a minute"? As a matter of fact I am going to talk to you; whether or not you listen is up to you. The Boy Is Mine, is probably the most played song across America today. This song which was riddled with controversy from the get go, has continued to wreak havoc in the lives of many, gay and straight, and on dance floors from the West to the East coast and as far south as the Florida keys. Written by Rodney Jenkins, Brandy, Lashawn Daniels and Fred Jenkins 111, The Boy Is Mine has crossed cultures and is widely accepted as the rhetoric of the day. Its implications are far reaching and especially in the gay community have become a theme as well as cause for concern and celebration. As children our parents tried to get us, to not be so territorial about saying "my this", and "my that", or mine, mine, mine. However this is usually an indication of how possessive or unkind a child will grow up to be. Hardly out of their own childhood, the singers of this phenomenal duet, Brandy and Monica were rumored to have had their stilleto heels caught up in their hair weaves over whose song it is. Hence a phrase was coined, The song is mine. In her appearance on the Magic Show, Monica said that there was no such controversy and the song is a duet and that her album happens to bear the same title is an acceptable arrangement by both parties. That seeming controversy has been settled, but the one brooding in our own back yard comes to the forefront, every time these two song birds are heard on the radio or in a club cooing The Boy Is Mine.

In New York at the Octagon Night Club on a Friday night, or at the Warehouse on a Saturday night, the house is up in arms as everyone on the floor starts cock strutting and staking claim on the boy that is theirs or the one they would like to be theirs. Ex boyfriends can be seen causing the heat in these already hot establishments to rise a considerable 3 to 4 degrees . Some serious, some joking, but all having the time of their lives getting a high from the lyrics and re-mixed beats of this latest phenomenon that posits the All American Teen Queen (Brandy)against an equally or to some more beautiful teen rival(Monica).

How has this latest craze, which has taken the club scene by storm and is quickly rivaling the early 90s hit, Miss Thing , Their Is No Guest List Tonight, affecting the gay legion.

While "Miss Thing" addressed the free-loading mentality of the famous club kids of that era ,The boy is mine is addressing a much more serious, yet age old, battle of, to whom does the man really belong. My neighbor on the Island had two families in a strictly catholic society and it would have been interesting to see the society girl, Mrs Andersen, in the supermarket declaring to the up and coming new money girl, Tonya Gohagen that Tony Andersen was hers. Of course, they considered themselves way too classy to even acknowledge that they were happily sharing Tony's whopper. My mom tried to convince me that Karen and her half sister Lakeisha looking like twins were not related, and it was a mere coincidence. Whatever! Its been years, but I wonder if either of these two women can claim Tony as theirs today?

How many of us can truly claim that the man in our lives is ours? How important is it to be able to say "The Boy Is Mine"? Are we deluded into thinking that some man actually is ours? Some of us can say "The Boy Is Mine" on Thursday nights only, which was the night a friend of mine was scheduled to be with his boyfriend that he was unknowingly sharing with a few others. Some can say" "The Boy Is Mine"" anytime they feel like it because they don't have ownership issues. They have embraced the concept of sharing because the boy will come home when he gets bored with the many cheap tricks trying to get into his drawers. Besides no one can

Continued From Page 16

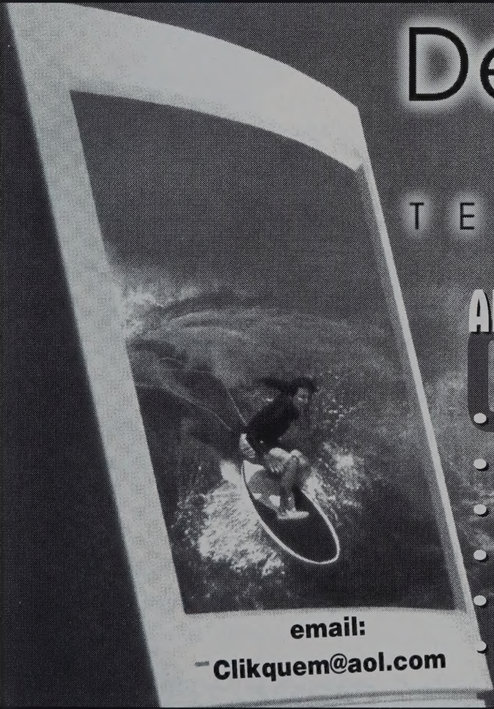
love him like you can, to borrow from another song by Mary J. Blige.

So why is this song such a hit and do the singers and song writers know how much havoc this song is wrecking in many a gay mans life? An ex of mine is sleeping with or has slept with a former roommate of mine, but truth be told, the boy is still mine. We may not be intimately involved but we have connected on a higher level that makes the boy eternally mine. Of course that is debatable, which is the beauty of the song. Queens are always telling me that my boyfriend is having this one or was seen coming from that one's house. But have they stopped to ponder that they started the gossip by saying "your" boyfriend which clearly indicates that "The Boy Is Mine".

On the issue of stating a claim on some man, heterosexual society has lead us to believe that this is of utmost importance but is it realistic for the gay man? Most gay men are in denial about their desires. They all start by saying "we are monogamous" , yet as soon as one leaves the room the other is trying to give me head. Then I have to go home and check the Webster's Collegiate or call my doctor to get my hearing re-tested. Monogamy is an unfair ideal, which has caused many a wonderful relationships to crumble. I am in the process of writing a book which at this point I may want to re-name "The Boy Is Ours" because in reality this is a much easier ideal to live with and a more accurate depiction of the drama we call life.

So while the song has taken the world by storm we need to accept its catchy lyrics for what they are. The songwriters need to purge and be obsessive. Their is no strong moral or ethical implications intended just another entry into the journals of controversial endeavors intended to sell records, shock people and start the rumor mill going. Don't get caught up in the ownership battle of which the song speaks; just live your life. Appreciate your man for what he is worth; slay some kid on the dance floor. Temporarily steal his man but when the song ends, hand him right back. For we really have no right to want to own another human being. Slavery was abolished years ago even though we are constantly trying to enslave somebody.

So while Monica , Brandy and their producers make big bucks from this age old controversy we must remember to take its rhetorical implications in stride and not let this mine , mine, mine, mentality consume us. Whether it is with the ownership of our cars, our business ventures or our interpersonal relationships, just remember that we were taught at an early age to share. However if you must declare the boy to be yours make sure that he is claiming you to be his as well.



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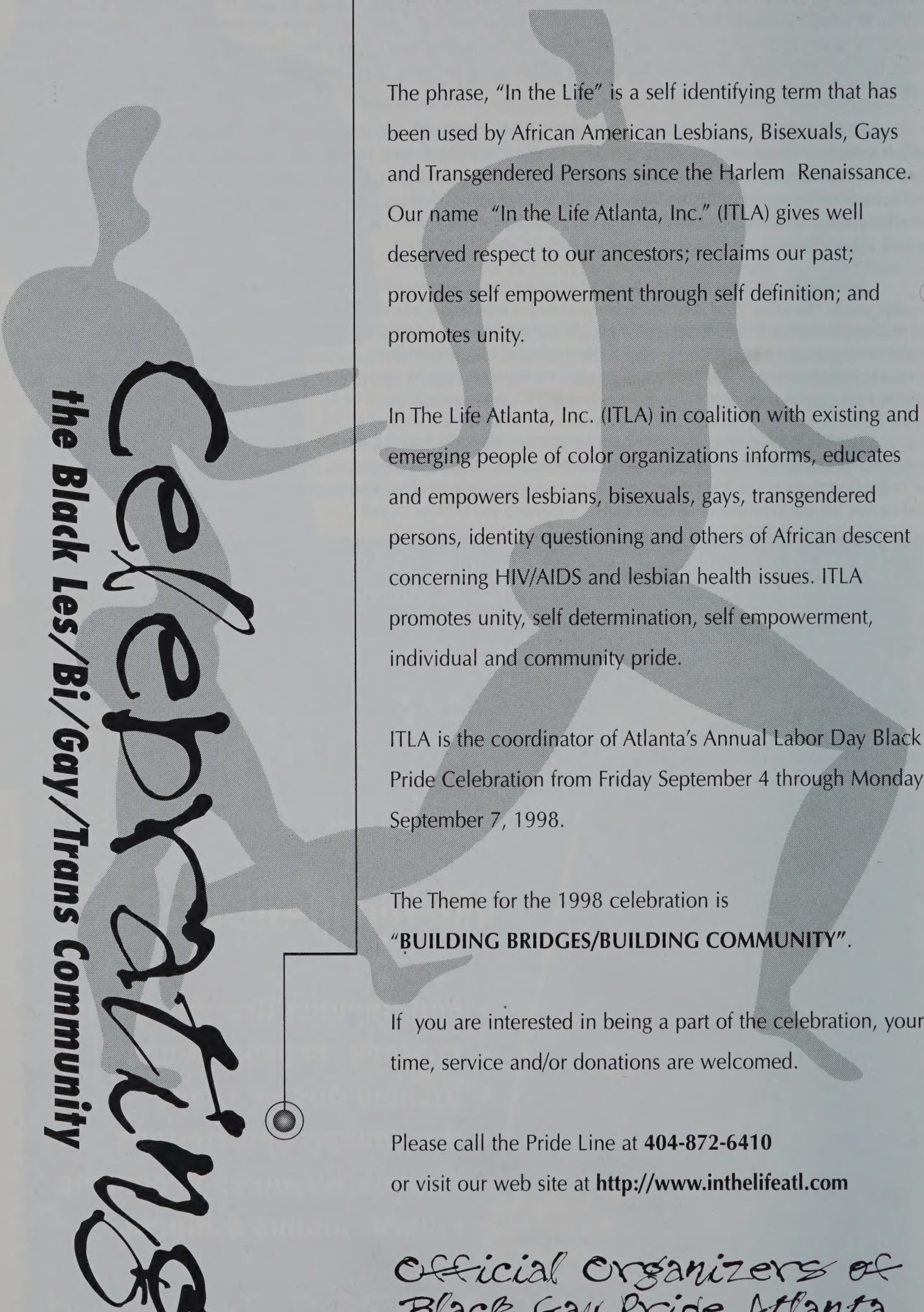
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA



celebrating

the Black Les/Bi/Gay/Trans Community

The phrase, "In the Life" is a self identifying term that has been used by African American Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays and Transgendered Persons since the Harlem Renaissance. Our name "In the Life Atlanta, Inc." (ITLA) gives well deserved respect to our ancestors; reclaims our past; provides self empowerment through self definition; and promotes unity.

In The Life Atlanta, Inc. (ITLA) in coalition with existing and emerging people of color organizations informs, educates and empowers lesbians, bisexuals, gays, transgendered persons, identity questioning and others of African descent concerning HIV/AIDS and lesbian health issues. ITLA promotes unity, self determination, self empowerment, individual and community pride.

ITLA is the coordinator of Atlanta's Annual Labor Day Black Pride Celebration from Friday September 4 through Monday September 7, 1998.

The Theme for the 1998 celebration is
"BUILDING BRIDGES/BUILDING COMMUNITY".

If you are interested in being a part of the celebration, your time, service and/or donations are welcomed.

Please call the Pride Line at **404-872-6410**
or visit our web site at **http://www.inthelifeatl.com**

Official Organizers of
Black Gay Pride Atlanta

IN THE LIFE ATLANTA

While In atlanta...

Places to Stay:

Sheraton Colony Square Hotel Midtown
(404) 892-6000; 1-800-422-7895
188 14th Street NE
$89 (single/double); $109 (triple/quad) - plus sales tax

Marriott Marquis - Downtown
(404) 521-0000; 1-800-228-9290
265 Peachtree Center Avenue

Windham Midtown Atlanta
(404) 873-4800; 1-800-996-3426
125 10th Street
$110 (single) $119 (double) - plus sales tax

Hampton Inn Midtown
1152 Spring Street
$79 (plus tax; single/double)
(404) 872-3234 1-800-HAMPTON

Courtyard Marriott
(404) 607-1112; 1-800-321-2211
1132 Techwood Drive
$94 (single or double) - plus sales tax

Quality Inn Midtown
(404) 875-5511
8720 Peachtree Street
$65 (king room) - plus sales tax

Fairfield Inn
(404) 872-5821; 1-800-818-9745
1470 Spring Street NW
$64 (single king room) - plus sales tax

Ask for the Black Pride rates when making your reservation. First night stay must be secured via a major credit card. Add 14 percent . Georgia sales tax to the cost of each hotel room. To list your Black Pride Event please write: Black Pride Atlanta

Places to Party:

Circles
710 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA
(404) 815-6687
Open 7 Days a week• Mostly Black Profesional Women, everyone is welcome.
•Where Women Meet And Greet In heart of Midtown, One block North of the Fox Theatre

Loretta's
708 Spring Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 874-8125

Marquette Lounge
809 Martin Luther King Drive, NW, Atlanta, GA
If you like Bass, Booty-Shake Music and regular everyday 'round da way Brothas and Sistas this is da joint! Best on Saturday when they go 'til 7am.

Club Fusion
550-C Amsterdam Avenue, Atlanta, GA
(Midtown Outlet Center)
(404) 872-6411
•Infoline: (770) 745-0243
Raymond Carter & Associates

Muscle City
800 Marietta Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30318
(404) 607-7800 •Open 24 - 7 •Music - Bar
•Black and Latino Men. The only Black owned Gay Bathhouse in the Atlanta. Cum and have a HOT good time!

The Otherside
1924 Piedmont Road, Atlanta, GA 30324
(404) 845-5238
Where the Ladies come to party!

The Palace
Broad Street, Newly Remodeled

Traxx
306 Luckie Street, Atlanta, GA 30313
(404) 681-4422
•Saturday Night Dance Party
•Fridays it's THE WAREHOUSE (Straight, Trade). DJ 1st Class - House, Hip-Hop & Reggae

IN THE LIFE
ITLA
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web-site
www.inthelifeatl.com
828 West Peachtree Street
Suite 207
Atlanta, GA. 30308

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People Helping People

A Public Service Announcement From Clikque Magazine.

BROTHERS BACK 2 BACK

Brothers Back 2 Back is an Atlanta based support/social group for men of color infected or affected by HIV. Our mission is to provide emotional and practical support for men of color. Brothers Back 2 Back provides a safe environment for men coping with HIV to explore their emotions. Through support, members are encouraged to lead healthy and active lives. For more information contact 770-593-5805.

2ND
SUNDAY
BROTHERS
SPEAKING
OUT

SECOND SUNDAY

Second Sunday is a support organization created to assist in the growth and development of gay, bisexual and transgendered Men of African descent through education, social, spiritual and cultural activities. Second Sunday provides an atmosphere that promotes pride, unity and strength through the empowerment and uplifting of the collective consciousness of gay, bisexual and transgendered Men of African descent. For more infornation contact 404-325-7321.

UNITY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Unity Fellowship Movement was founded, incorporated and chartered (as a 501© (3) non-profit religious organization) in Los Angeles, California in the year 1985. The "Mother Church," also known as Unity Fellowship of Christ Church, is currently located in Los Angeles, California. Unity Fellowship Christ Church Atlanta is pastored by Reverend Antonio F. Jones. Rev. Jones is keeping the vision of the movement by preaching, teaching and showing that GOD is love and love is for everyone. For more information please contact Rev. Jones 404-752-5030..

A lady always wears her gloves!

Wear latex condoms!
A Message From Clikque Magazine.
If Used properly, latex condoms are effective against pregnancy and AIDS and other STD's.

PLAY Hard,
PLAY Safe,
PLAY Again!

TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

ATLANTA BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

BLACK GAY PRIDE WELCOMING PARTY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

Traxx on location @ Club Kaya & Bistro • 1068 Peachtree Street, NE • (404)874-4460
Hosted by: Big Dave w/Free Admission before 11 PM Doors Open @ 10 PM • Special Performances

HAPPY HOUR

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

location TBA • 5 PM - 10 PM • Classic Soul Music With DJ Keven Ford & DJ Ron Pullman — A 30 & Up Bash!

BLACK PRIDE KICK OFF PARTY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

At Masquerade - 695 North Ave. Atlanta GA. • 404-577-8178

PURPLE PASSION

THE 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF TRAXX

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

@ TRAXX — 306 LUCKIE Street • (404)681-4422 • Doors Open @ 10 PM • 3 Levels of Hot Entertainment. DJ Biff, DJ Keith Stephens, DJ 1st Class, DJ Ron Pullman • Mr. Black Pride Contest $1,000 Cash Prize • Adult Film Stars: **BOBBY BLAKE & J.C. CARTER** • Live Performance by JA-SHAY • Phenomenally Fine Go Go Dancers

WET & WILD POOL TRAXX PARTY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

Woodlake Country Club • 8039 Creekstone Way • (770)478-5446 • Open Bar 1 PM - 3 PM • Free Buffet 1 PM - 3 PM • Doors Open @ 12:30 PM • Only Beach in Atlanta, Pool, Volleyball Court, Large Dance Floor • $500 Bare As You Dare Body Beautiful Contest!!! Rain Or Shine w/ DJ Sedrick - The District House Mother

THE TRAXX AFTER PARTY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

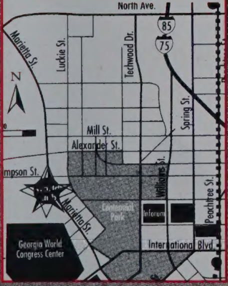
@ TRAXX — 306 LUCKIE Street • (404)681-4422 • Doors Open @ 10 PM • Hip Hop Music. DJ Ruckus on the 1's & 2's. FREE ADMISSION WITH POOL PARTY WRIST BAND

BUTT-NAKED

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

"The Official Battle of the Dancers" only @ TRAXX • 306 Luckie Street * (404)681-4422 • Dancers from, L.A., Atlanta, Miami, Chicago, Houston, D.C. & New York Battle for $2,000 in Cash & Prizes
Doors Open @ 10 PM

TRAXX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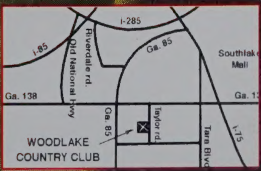
Williams St.
Peachtree St.
Centennial Park
Inforum
International Blvd
Georgia World Congress Center

306
LUCKIE Street


I-285
I-85
Riverdale rd.
Old National Hwy
Ga. 85
Southlak Mall
Ga. 138
Ga. 1
Ga. 85
Taylor rd.
I-75
Tara Blv
WOODLAKE COUNTRY CLUB

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Celebrating

the Black Les/Bi/Gay/Trans Community

828 West Peachtree Street • Suite 207 • Atlanta, GA 30308 • Pride Line 404-872-6410

HARAMBEE!

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Kevin E. Bynes
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Gail P. Myers
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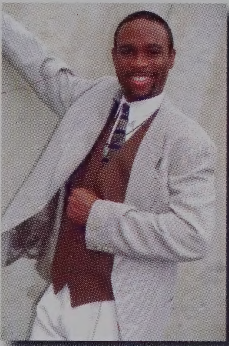
Malik M.L. Williams

In the Life Atlanta, Inc., would like to take this time to invite you to join us for our **3rd Annual Black Gay Pride Celebration**, Labor Day weekend, September 3-7, 1998. ITLA, as the official organizer, works hard throughout the year to bring programs and events that promote individual and collective empowerment, health, and unity year round.



Darryl! L.C. Moch
Executive Director/CFO

Labor Day weekend is our biggest celebration. It has become a time for family and friends to gather in the Black Mecca and the Black Gay Mecca for one last hurrah of the summer. This weekend is very special to us because we are able to share with you, our brothers, sisters, family, and friends from all over the world a great time of pride, power, and liberation.

We invite you to join us at the host hotel, the **Wyndham-Midtown** (in the heart of Midtown Atlanta) for *great parties, cultural experiences, poetry/readings, performances, artist showings and fantastic BUFFETS!!!* You will also be able to pick up some wonderful keepsakes and gifts from our vendors/supporters.

Don't be confused by the many, many parties and events planned for you. ITLA and the community organizations of Atlanta will offer an array of events and experiences for all tastes and desires. There will be a myriad of things to do so be sure not to miss official ITLA events. Pick up your **Pride Pass**, your key to the city, and have a grand time in Atlanta. The pass will feature all ITLA events and buffet meals, as well as ***select discounts*** at local **CLUBS**, restaurants, and businesses.

We are excited about this year ***"Building Bridges/Building Community,"*** with you and our own Atlanta family. This is going to be a weekend to remember. For more information, or to reserve your Pride Pass at the special reduced rate (before Sept. 1, 1998), contact our office @ (404) 872-6410 or our web site: **www.inthelifeatl.com.**

Peace, Blessings, and Pride!

Darryl! L.C. Moch
Executive Director/CFO

web site: http://www.inthelifeatl.com • email: inthelife@mindspring.com

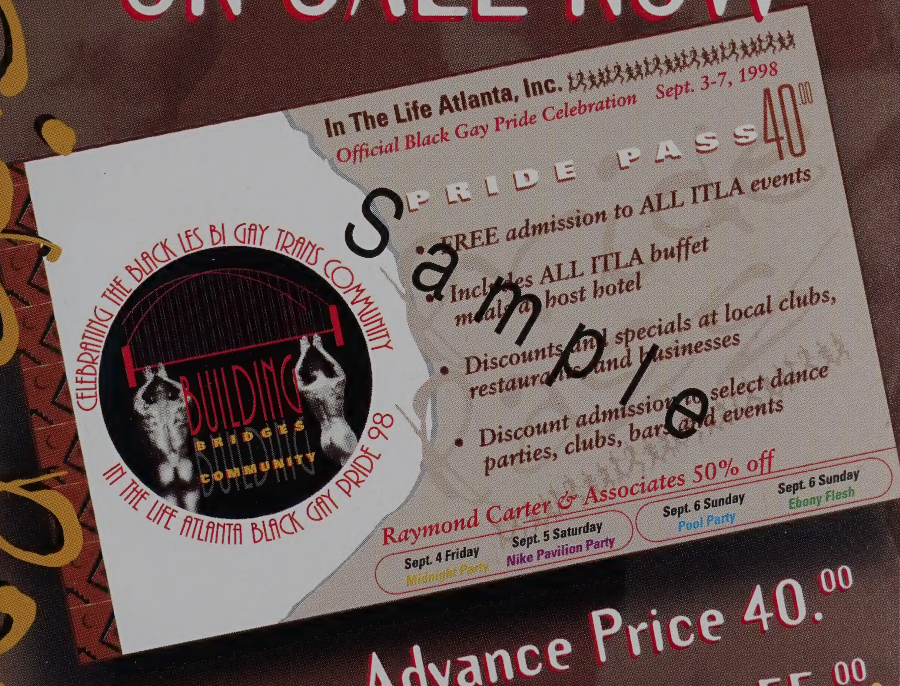
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA, INC.

PRESENTS:

Atlanta's Black Pride Celebration
Labor Day Weekend September 3-7, 1998

Pride Pass

ON SALE NOW



In The Life Atlanta, Inc.
Official Black Gay Pride Celebration Sept. 3-7, 1998

PRIDE PASS 40.00

- *FREE admission to ALL ITLA events*
- *Includes ALL ITLA buffet meals at host hotel*
- *Discounts and specials at local clubs, restaurants and businesses*
- *Discount admission to select dance parties, clubs, bars and events*

Raymond Carter & Associates 50% off

Sept. 4 Friday Midnight Party
Sept. 5 Saturday Nike Pavilion Party
Sept. 6 Sunday Pool Party
Sept. 6 Sunday Ebony Flesh

CELEBRATING THE BLACK LES BI GAY TRANS COMMUNITY
BUILDING BRIDGES BUILDING COMMUNITY
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE 98

Sample

Advance Price 40.00
Regular Price 55.00
after Sept. 1, 1998

CELEBRATING THE BLACK LES BI GAY TRANS COMMUNITY
BUILDING BRIDGES BUILDING COMMUNITY
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE 98

IN THE LIFE A

PRES

Atlanta's Black Pride Celebration

Thursday -September 3, 1998

* Candle Light Vigil and Remembrance Celebration - 7:00 pm John Howell Park Conducted by Brothers Back To Back

Friday- September 4, 1998

Buffet meal- Free with Pride Pass only

Welcome Reception - 6:30 pm @ The Wyndham-Midtown the Host Hotel

- Fashion 2000- The Show of a Lifetime - 7:30 pm @ Host Hotel
- Kick-off Party - after the fashion show @ Host Hotel
- Pride Parties around the city- Local clubs Loretta's, Club Jaguars, Club Fusion, Indigo Arts, Otherside, Traxx, Club Towers, The Palace

Saturday- September 5, 1998

Buffet Brunch begins at 10:00 am- Free with Pride Pass only

- Health and Wellness Symposium @Host Hotel 11:00 am

Health in the African-American L/B/G/T communities.

- Video and Film Fest - Film/Video showings Host Hotel 11:00 am–6:00 pm

"Images and Perspectives:G/L/B/T in films and video. Shall we overcome?" Roundtable 4:00 pm with Stefanie Wynne, LA film maker and Deardria Nesbitt, Atlanta film maker

2nd Sunday Presents: "In Focus: Films and and discussions on Gay men of African Descent" Film Screening and discussion 6:00 pm

Cultural Arts Festival - All Day @Host Hotel

Buffet Lunch begins at 2:00 pm - Free with Pride Pass only

- Black Ink Writer's Collective- featuring James Earl Hardy 12:00 pm
- Circle of Sisters- Womyn's Workshop 2:00pm - 4:00pm

CELEBRATING THE BLACK LES
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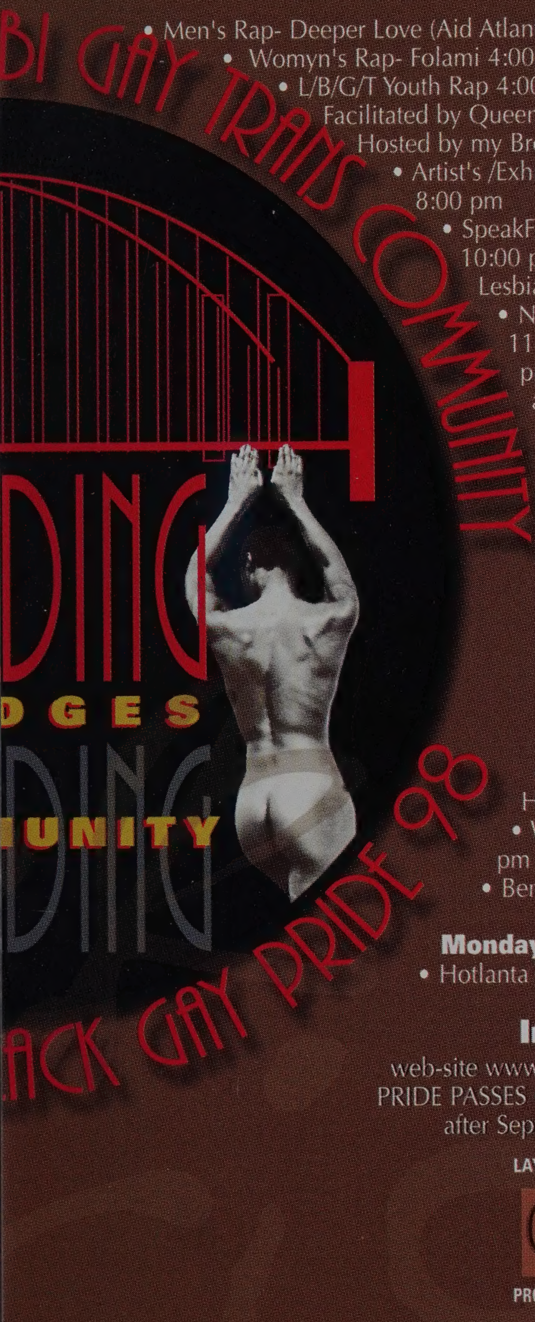
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA B

ATLANTA, INC.

ENTS:

bor Day Weekend September 3-7, 1998



- Men's Rap- Deeper Love (Aid Atlanta) 4:00pm- 6:00pm
- Womyn's Rap- Folami 4:00pm- 6:00pm
- L/B/G/T Youth Rap 4:00pm- 6:00 pm Facilitated by Queen and Stacey Blake Hosted by my Brotha's Keeper- 2nd Sunday
- Artist's /Exhibit Reception at Host Hotel 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm
- SpeakFire! "Erotica" (Open mic sign up @9:30pm) 10:00 pm @Host Hotel Presented by the Black Lesbian and Gay Poet Society
- NY/DC/Atlanta Party @ The NIKE Pavillion 11:00pm-until... presented by:Raymond Carter and Associates and U-Men U-Sweat with ITLA and The Men of 2nd Sunday

Sunday- September 6, 1998

Buffet Brunch begins at 10:00 am- Free with Pride Pass only

- Vespers @Host Hotel 10:00am
- Interdenominational Worship Service @Host Hotel 11:30 am
- Unity Fellowship Church of Atlanta, Circle of Love Fellowship "Family" Reunion Picnic at Piedmont Park pavilion 2:00 pm
- Dedication of the African-American and Hispanic Memorial Quilt 3:30 pm
- Wet and Wild Splash Party @Host Hotel 7: 00 pm - 11:00 pm
- Benefit Cabaret Showcase @Host Hotel 10:00 pm

Monday- September 7, 1998

- Hotlanta on your own-Parties, BarBQues,and Gatherings

In The Life Atlanta Inc.

web-site www.inthelifeatl.com or call (404) 872-6410
PRIDE PASSES ($40.00) - On Sale AUGUST 1, 1998
after September 1, 1998 ($55.00)

LAYOUT: EM DESIGNS • PHOTO: UMARI

CLIKQUE MAGAZINE

PROUD SPONSOR OF IN THE LIFE ATLANTA, INC.
BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

RASCALS NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS

A TOMMIE WEEKEND

Friday August 14th

Tommy Hilfiger Boxer Shorts Party • Cash Money For The Best Tommy Underwear

Saturday August 15th

It's The Tommy Attire Party • Cash Money For The Best Tommy Outfit

Sunday August 16th

Tommie Ross Joins The Rascals Untouchables For A Super Sunday Show. Showtime 11PM

DESIGNED BY: DESKTOP GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY 1-888-504-5703

Rascals Presents

Wednesday 19th August

Return of The Gayly Wed Game

It's Back If You Missed It The First Time. You Better Not Miss It This Time. Win $150 Cash — Couples Must Be Together Atleast One Month

August 28-30 1998

Invasion of the Dallas Kids

Friday 28th

Dallas Never Looked So Good!

They're Back And They're Hot — **K-Rock** and **Pretty-Boy** Dance There Way Into Your Hearts. 10:30PM

Saturday 29th

So They Want To Bumble With The Bees Huh?

Dallas Vs. Houston

From Dallas: Leslie Houston, Danielle Winters, Dirty Sally, Jodie Malone and Flex From Houston: Tiffany Brooks, Chanel Nichole, Tijuana Brooks, Dominique Deveraux, Demetrious Domino

Sunday 30th

So Long Dallas Kids — Super Suday Show

Starring The Rascals Untouchables, w/Special Guest Miss Jodie Malone

DESIGNED BY: DESKTOP GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY 1-888-504-5703

An Evening of Illusions

Sunday 20th Sept.

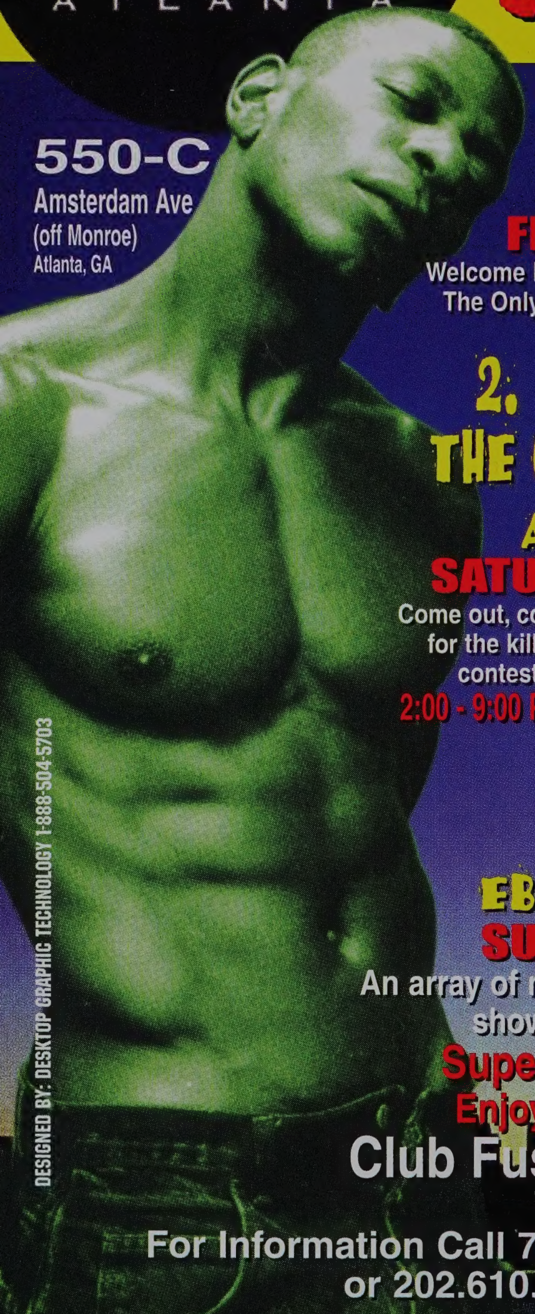
Starring Kourtney Van Wales as Madonna • Alicia Kelly as Pattie Labelle • Victoria Prince as Dion Warrick • Tiffany Brooks as Leana Horne & Chanel Nichole as Anita Baker

RASCALS
Houstons' Hot Spot!
Kourtney Van Wales

FuSion
ATLANTA

Raymond Carter & Associates Presents

SAFARI HUNT



550-C
Amsterdam Ave
(off Monroe)
Atlanta, GA

1. THE HUNT BEGINS....

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4TH

Welcome Reception & Complimentary Buffet — 6-9PM
The Only Dance Party Where The Men Will Be! 4 DJ's
Club Fusion 10PM-Until

2. THE CAPTURE GETS HOT!!! AT THE POOL PARTY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH

Come out, come out were every you are if you're looking for the kill.... Men, food, booze and bodies. Body parts contest. (Abs, Chest, Buns.) Go-Go Dancers Galore

2:00 - 9:00 PM • 5421 Denny Drive • College Park, GA

3. THE KILL.....

EBONY FLESH EXPLOSION

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH

An array of multi-talented exotic male dancers showing you what they got...Featuring **Super Porn Star "Tyson Cane". Enjoy two shows at the same time**

Club Fusion — 10:00 PM — Until

For Information Call 770.745.0243 Atlanta
or 202.610.3343 DC

Proud Sponsor of In The Life Atlanta, Inc.

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Up Close *With* Cookie LaCook

The Legendary Mother of Houston

By Lewis Nicholson

A calm, humble spirit, with the quality of life as a main issue in his psyche is Houston's own Cookie La Cook. Having recently celebrated his twenty-first birthday for the umpteenth time with a bash fit for a queen, we at Clikque were quite pleased to learn that Houston's Premier drag queen is actually the king of his castle.

Having been a staple in the club scene and entertainment industry for twenty-five years, Cookie is actually most pleased with the work he does assisting HIV positive people and those with AIDS. This aspect of his life is not public knowledge, because Cookie does not think anyone needs to know who his clients are. When not reading from the stage at either of Houston's two nightclubs, Cookie can be found spreading love and cheer to those in need. And you thought she was just a loud mouth queen spilling the tea. Sorry, that is the other girl.

Born Al Tezeno in Opelousas, Louisiana to Baptist parents, Cookie grew up in Jennings where he attended and graduated from Jennings high school. Today Cookie is a major player in the Houston club scene where his name alone is enough to pack a club. But is it really his name or his comic genius which includes lots of spoofs on the way the kids live in Houston. " I don't read anybody on stage, 98% of it, is the truth,if telling the truth is reading, then I guess it is reading", Cookie says.

Cookie considers himself a people person with a caring spirit. He has done numerous benefits for various causes and is always willing to help whenever and where ever possible.

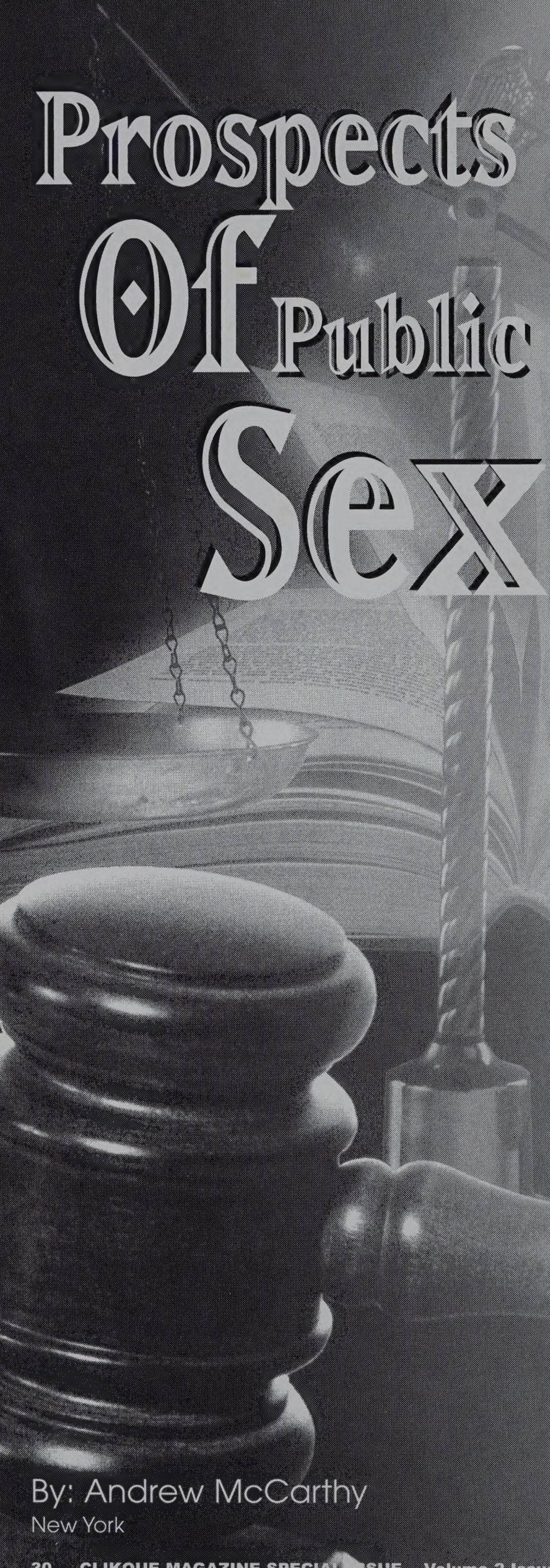
Like most Southern queens who have made it, Cookie too is a holder of a few titles. Two of his more prominent titles are, Miss Texas At Large and Miss Austin County.

Cookie got his start at Houston' first Black Gay Bar, the now closed Gold Room. Since then, there has been no stopping him and his talents are highly sought after. So much so, that even with the constant rivalry between Houston's two premier night clubs Cookie is still able to work them both.This, Cookie does not see as a conflict of interest as the nights she works one club, the clientele at the other is different or the club is closed.

Cookie credits The Lady Noble Bernard and Donna Day as his earliest mentors and source of inspiration. Today, he sights the likes of Rande Rochelle, Derick Miles of Incognito and Grover Fortenberry of Rascals as constant sources of encouragement. It is, however the flawless talents and impeccable presentation of Chanel Nichole that he finds most encouraging in terms of the entertainment being offered these days.

Cookie has no intentions of being a 24 hr Drag Queen because that is not her. "The girls look good, but that is not for me." Cookie thanks God for his career in the entertainment industry but has maintained a job at one of the nations major hotel chains for 25 years.Cookie is happy with the man he refers to as his special friend that has stuck by him for the last seven years.

Prospects Of Public Sex



By: Andrew McCarthy
New York

Everyone wants sex; you know it's true! But how many people are willing to admit it? For the longest time, in the United States, heterosexuals who openly discuss, pursue, and frequently engage in sex are considered "perverts." The humanity of sex workers, feminists, and queers is not even contemplatible by said (un)sexual majority.

The advent of the nuclear family after World War II was preceded less ceremoniously by threats to the sexual status quo in the formation of same sex communities (pansexual), heterosexuals postponing marriage and child-rearing in order to live hedonistically, and an increase in the number of visible brothels and baths.
This erotic flourishing has always encountered much resistance, but recent tactics employed by the immoral minority types and their governmental bedfellows have been stepped up to dramatic levels. Even the great cultural force known as New York City has fallen victim to the the relinquishing of freedoms and the disaster of denial. Realistic information concerning AIDS and HIV, drug use, and sex and sexuality aren't available in (public) schools. Kids can't get condoms or a copy of Heather Has Two Mommies. But, what a relief-crime has fallen!

So say the police, but they wouldn't even give you the wrong time of day. And now, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has to justify the endless hiring of police officers, so taxi drivers, sidewalk food vendors, art and jewelry vendors, homeless panhandlers, and jay walkers are all being mercilessly harassed, ticketed, arrested, and jailed by overzealous police for minor infractions of the law, imagined or otherwise. Numerous community gardens throughout the city, erected on abandoned lots that were prior homes to dangerous trash and rats, have been bulldozed by the Mayor's municipalities; the lots being repossessed by the city and auctioned off to real estate speculators. Mind you, there are roughly 800 community gardens, but 14,000 city-owned vacant lots.

What does any of this have to do with sex, you ask? Well, this is all admittedly part of the Mayor's "Quality Of Life" campaign, which, starting about a year ago, also targeted clubs and bars that allowed dancing by it's patrons, which, because of an often-ignored, decades-old law, is still illegal if a venue doesn't possess a cabaret license. Also part of the Quality Of Life campaign is the rezoning of businesses that are sexual in nature to less friendly locales.

The majority of sex clubs, porn video and book stores, and porn movie theaters that were in operation over a year ago have completely closed since they weren't allowed to operate within 500 feet of another sex store, a house of worship, a school or child day care facility, and any residential area. So, as a result, Times Square has literally been demolished, along with the First Amendment, and on the ruins of the sex theaters is springing up the wholesome Disney metropolis.
Independent lawyers representing sex busi-

nesses and Lawyers from the New York Civil Liberties Union representing customers are appealing their case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Unless the Supreme Court hears the case, the zoning laws could go into effect as soon as the third week in July, forcing sex shops and clubs to face enormous fines while either closing for good or relocating to designated "appropriate" sites in the mostly industrial outskirts of town, where few are likely to leisurely stroll by. Clutch your purses tightly! Clikque will be at the printer's by then, so to find out what's going on, tune into your favorite alternative news sources, or stop by your local "adult" businesses and shop at their Going Out Of Business sales.

At the few sex establishments that weren't forced to close their doors during the first round of zoning zenophobia, undercover Department Of Health (D.O.H.) inspectors and police officers are making more visits to catch customers in violation of city health ordinances, most of which were developed in the mid to late 1980s to shut down porn theaters and bath houses out of fear of HIV transmission. (Reading the D.O.H.'s own reports shows how bogus all of their data collecting procedures were; inspectors' observations used as "evidence" that unsafe sex practices were going on were completely speculative and don't hold up to any real scientific standards, but the city had its intentions and nothing was going to get in their way.)

So where do gay men go to find sex these days? How severe is police entrapment in public spaces? What effects is all of this having on HIV prevention, especially with the mandatory names reporting and partner notification law that New York state has adopted as of last week? Private sex parties such as Blatino, that are seldom advertised (so as to avoid closure), that have no fixed location and neighborhood presence, or others that are known only by word of mouth, are becoming more popular. Cruising in the city's parks hasn't been a joy either, now that the police are enforcing curfews and handing out summonses. And if you get caught beating off on the subway, in a park, or in a public bathroom, and you aren't George Michael, you better know a good lawyer.

This past May, beginning during the television ratings sweeps week, over twenty T.V. news shows nationwide broadcasted stories about "sexual deviants" "endangering children." Strategies utilized included covert video surveillance in department store bathrooms, public rest area rest rooms, and in public parks. Results ranged from exclusive footage of men striking up bland, inaudible conversations with one another in rest rooms to police staking out men in desolate outdoor parks. Members of the print media mafia resorted to running stories of police stings along with profiles of the men arrested, complete with names, ages, home addresses, and locations of employment. Marriages were ended abruptly, jobs were lost, and a man in Arkansas committed suicide after his name was published in a local newspaper.

Aside from the president, what straights have you heard about getting busted for fucking in a public place? Any prostitutes' tricks' names getting printed in your daily rag? If it weren't for television crews hiding cameras in bathrooms to sneak a peak as you leak, and police dressing as trees and hiding in fox holes in remote areas of wooded parks, it would be imaginable that privacy could and does exist in those public spaces. Normally, when others-especially children-enter a tea room or sex scene in a park or in a dark alley, all sex stops, at least until it is confirmed that no participants are in danger of risking offense or substantiate getting caught by newcomers. So what harm is there?

With the disappearance of safe spaces for gay men to have sex in, correspondingly, the possibility of positive socializing and bonding between gay men is left for elsewhere, as are the opportunities for safer sex promotion and educational outreach. For men in need of such support and information, especially men who are not gay identified, it becomes less likely that they will receive it easily. What closeted men in booths at porn video stores or in the bushes at a park are willing to take home safer sex education materials designed for gay men, only for their wives and family members to discover-let alone bring back a man to practice on-when a flyer on a wall at a sex club explaining why to avoid oil-based lubricants when fucking can be read in a just a few minutes and with less of a fear factor?

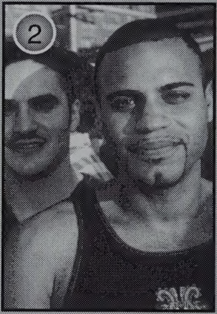
Unfortunately, the refuge of anonymity is the only place where many gay men will be expressing their sexualities. When places that allow and affirm self expression-public or private, online or outdoors, in a video or on the pages of a magazine-are no longer able to provide what little safety that they do, the communities that rely on those freedoms are no longer afforded the ability to assemble to even discuss how to inform said spaces. Culture is driven underground. Shame and fear prevail.

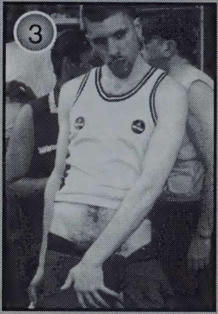
So, where are you going to go to get laid? Before you go there, when was the last time you had an HIV test? If you get one in New York or in over thirty other states, and you test positive, you will be required to report your name and all of the people that you have had sex with and/or shared your needles with if you are an injection drug user. And those people whose names you submit will also have to provide the names of the people they fucked or shared needles with, and so on and so forth. New York has already allocated $10 million to this project, but has slashed AIDS/HIV prevention budgets.

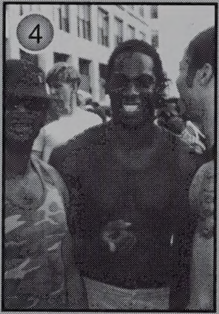
If you do brave the threat of the police state, you may find me sucking dicks in a subway station, or pumping penises in Prospect Park. Maybe you are my lover, maybe you are a trick from last week, maybe I've never had you before. Maybe you were at that demonstration at City Hall last week; yeah I think you were the one holding the sign that read "Keep New York SeXXXy!" Yeah, you, what's your name? You don't have to tell me if you don't want to, but I like to articulate my moans into recognizable invocations for my high priest of pum pum pleasure. Do cum again soon.

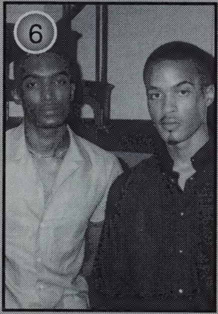
SCENE QUEEN

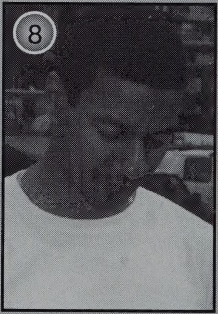
1. Top notch New York ***DJ Fred Pierce*** and Houston's ***DJ Apples***. ***2. Miguel*** and his cute friends. Which one had the scene queen? ***3. Miss Andrew*** girl, what are you holding? It's ovah! ***4. Chicago***? We'll never go back! NYC is home. ***5. Big Yo!*** A real mouthful. ***6.*** It's ***Nigel*** and ***Joe Mugler***, need we say more? ***7.*** It's ***Selvin Mizrahi***! We just love this diva. ***8. Clubhouse*** Superstar, ***Frankie*** Paradise keeps it going on Wednesdays. ***9. Charles Jackson*** of NYC's ***Warehouse***. ***10. Chaz*** of ***U-men, U-Sweat*** fame and journalist. ***11.*** ""The Boy Is Mine""!-Clikque's Editor, OOOps ***Publisher*** boyfriend. ***12.*** U-Men's ***James Saunders*** pushing flyers. A Clikque Ad could do the trick.

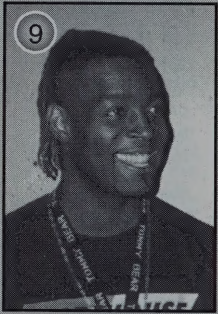


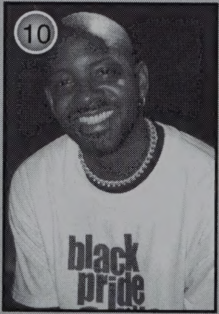


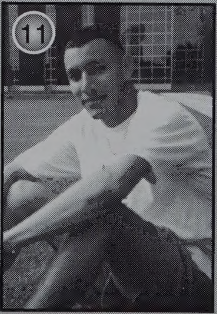


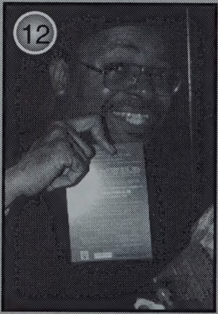








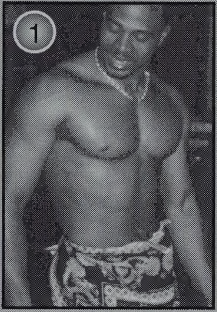




SCENE QUEEN!

1. Mykle Milan of ***Atlanta***, strutting his stuff. ***2. James Earl Hardy*** meets Clikque's publisher at the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta. ***3. Montel***, we just loved that cat face. 4. The new ***Mr. Incognito***. What talent. ***5.Escuelita's Angel Sheridan*** out of drag, or is this her drag? ***6. Diamond Deliante***, It's ovah for her! ***7.*** A ***Texas*** majorette! ***8.*** Who is this ***cutie***? The ***editor*** is looking for him. Business that is. ***9. Ayana Khan***, A true beauty. ***10. Smokie*** it gyrll! Love the wig. ***11. Tiffany Brooks*** - Talk about a girl with titles. How many missy? ***12. Michael Omni*** - Legendary face and Umen staff member, see you at the ***Octagon.***

Be In The Right Place At The Right Time, And You Too Can Be Featured In Our Scene Queen.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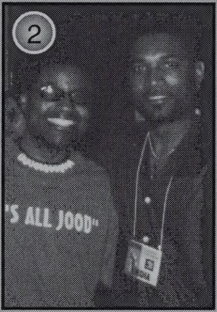
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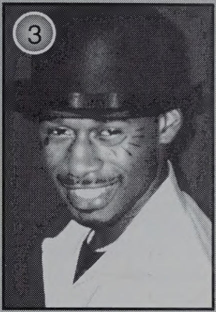
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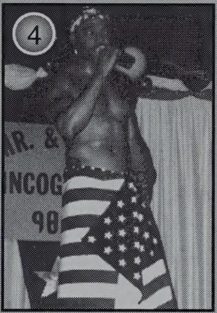
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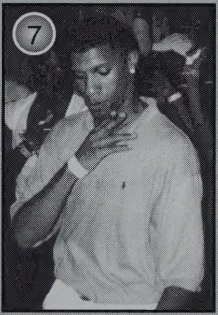
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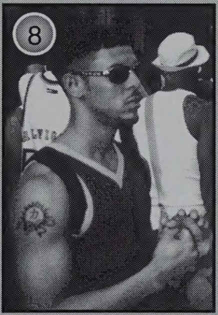
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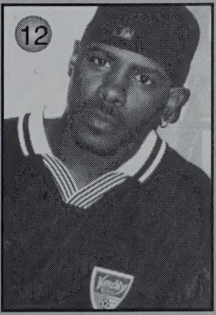
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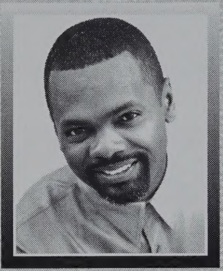


Stanley Clay,

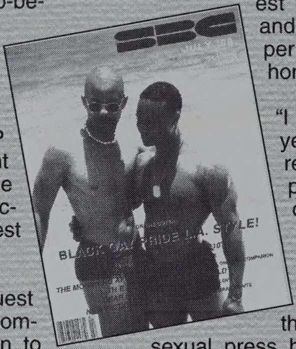
Los Angles,
California
PUBLISHER: SBC,
ACTOR, WRITER,
PRODUCER

Stanley Bennett Clay received 3 NAACP Theatre Awards and 3 Drama-logue Awards for writing, directing and co-producing the controversial stage play Ritual He is also the writer and director of the soon-to-be-release motion picture version of Ritual starring Clarence Williams III and Denise Nicholas.

Two seasons ago Clay produced the GLAAD, L.A. Weekly, L.A. Times and NAACP Award-winning musical Children of the Night and the season before that produced the world premier of Willie & Esther. His production received 2 L.A. Weekly Awards—-Best Play and Best Ensemble Performance.

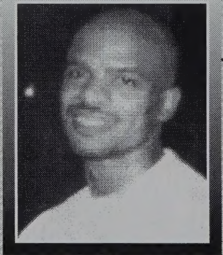
Previously an actor, Mr. Clay starred or guest starred in over 200 films, television shows, commercials and stage plays before going on to write, produce, direct and compose Street Nativity (a musical commissioned by the National Council of Negro Women for the Black Family Reunion Festival), write, produce and direct Lovers, direct the west coast productions of Jonin (Drama-logue Award/Direction) and The First Breeze of Summer, produce and star in (opposite BerNadette Stanis) Anna Lucasta (for which he received the NAACP Best Actor Image Award) and produce such other shows as Nobody Likes Ugly, Don't Ask! and The Death of Bessie Smith.
Listed in Who's Who Among Black Americans and former Vice President/Board of Directors of the Minority AIDS Project, Clay was the first recipient of the African American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award in 1990 and received Genre magazine's 1993 Role Model to the Gay Community's Lifeguard Award. Last year, he received the International Black Writers of America's highest honor, The 1997 Edna Crutchfield Founder's Literary Achievement Award "In recognition of outstanding work as writer, publisher, producer and director of the written word."

He is the author of the novel Diva (Holloway House) and is the Publisher and Editor-In-Chief of SBC magazine, America's oldest continuously published and most widely distributed periodical for the Africentric homosexual community.



"I started SBC magazine 7 years ago as a positive reflection of the strong and proud black homosexual community that the white gay publications were trying to render invisible," he states. " It is gratifying to see, after all these years, that the Africentric homosexual press has grown and flourished right along with the Africentric homosexual world community. We are a power to be reckoned with, we Africentric homosexual men and women, economically, culturally, socially, politcally and spiritually. We are a nation unto ourselves with our own unique voices, ready to do business as equals with other nations as who we uniquely are and as defined by no one else but ourselves."

Mr. Clay's newest play, In Search of Pretty Young Black Men, will have it's world premiere this March 1999 in Los Angeles.

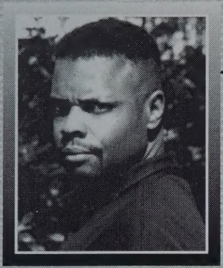


Kendall Beatty, Baltimore, MD

OWNER: ChocolateCityUSA.com — Internet website

Kendall Beatty, born in Portsmouth, VA, but grew up in Virginia Beach is a very exciting and promising young man. After graduating from Appalachian State University, Kendall reside in Atlanta and Chicago before he made an impressionable mark in Washing D.C.
Kendall said that he started Chocolate City (Premier website for people in the life) due to the lack of resources for African-Americans in the life on the internet. "My goal is to create a place where brothas and Sistas can come together and share information," says Kendall. He further went on to say, "In doing so, I hope to make Chocolate City a valuable resource for everyone, especially for African-Americans.

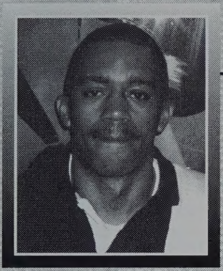
On a personal note, Kendall is a very active person who loves to dance, travel and hang out with friends. Also, Kendall enjoys reading and working-out. Keep up the good work my brotha, It is indeed inspiring to see someone take such pride in their work. ChocolateCityUSA is hot, Hot, Hot!



RIC IRICK, Washington, DC

PUBLISHER: Mailbox Magazine

Ric Irick, is the publisher of Malebox Magazine, a publication for Black Gay men out of Washington, DC, and the black gay publication having the longest uninterrupted monthly run (5 years of consecutive monthly issues since its inception in July 1993) In addition, he is the producer of the BGM Talkshow, a live discussion forum for issues relevant to same-gender loving men of color. He is the recipient of the 1992 SBC Brother of the Year Award, and the 1993 Community Service award given by Washington's Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Inc. Ric has an MBA in Marketing.



Grover Fortenberry, Houston, TX

General Manager / Nightclub Promoter

Grover Fortenberry is Houston's leading entertainment co-ordinator and club promoter. His job at Rascals, which is Houston's only consistent entertainment center for the black kids, is to ensure that they keep coming. It is a given in Houston that it takes a lot to get the gay kids running around town to actually pay to enter a club. The weather is too good for that.

So how does he do it?. Adding creativity to a twenty-odd year history in the entertainment industry, he is constantly thinking of ways to get a new crowd into the club. The experience has been a rewarding one for him but the most pleasure he says comes from hearing a patron say, " I enjoyed that, I hope you do it again." Due to the fact that there isn't much activities for the black gay and lesbian community, Grover finds it his responsibility the keep the kids, as they are affectionately call, entertained.

As one of the original founders of Houston Splash, A premier circuit event that attracts over 25,000 African Americans to Houston, Grover Fortenberry has played an extremely instrumental part in the building and strengthening of the black gay and lesbian community. More importantly, Grover Fortenberry is the founder of the city's first Black Gay Pride Celebration which was held this past July. This event, which was an overwhelming success, promises to get better and better as the years progress. The fact that the Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Committee has yet to include blacks in it's annual pride celebration, is what inspired Mr. Fortenberry to establish this event.

Clikque Magazine salutes Grover Fortenberry for his efforts and contributions to the Black gay and lesbian community.

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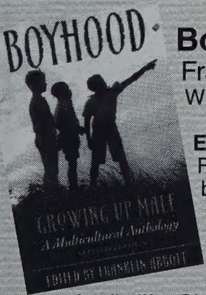
BOOK TO READ



Boyhood, Growing up Male: A Multicultural Anthology

Franklin Abbott • Paperback, 2nd ed., 294pp. SBN: 0299157547Publisher: U of Wis PPub. Date: March 1998

Expert Commentary

From Publisher's Weekly:Though some of these more than 40 personal accounts of boyhood convey the exquisite angst spawned by the contemporary men's movement, the broad range of experiences should strike many chords. A first section groups stories of emerging boyhood: Gordon Murray links childhood bullying to the macho bluster of the Gulf War, while Shepherd Bliss, the son of a career soldier, laments his circumcision and his family's warrior culture. In a second section, on family life, Oka Martin recalls the masculine dominance of traditional Nigerian society, while the Maltese-born John Mifsud learns of the WW II heroism of a father whose Alzheimer's disease had rendered him lost to his young son. The third section, on boyhood and the world, includes one devastating essay: Jerrold Ladd's potent account of surviving in the Dallas ghetto as the child of a junkie mother who enlisted his aid in shooting up and sent him begging to neighbors for food. A final section, on boyhood and the soul, includes Thomas Moore's evocation of how his grandfather died saving his life. The book presents not only international voices, but gay ones as well. Some of the essays and poems originally appeared in magazines like The Sun and Changing Men. Abbott edited Men and Intimacy.

From The Publisher:

By turns touching, funny, poignant, and painful, Boyhood chronicles the road to manhood through the personal narratives and poems of accomplished writers from around the world.

MUSIC REVIEW

BY JASON KING - NEW YORK

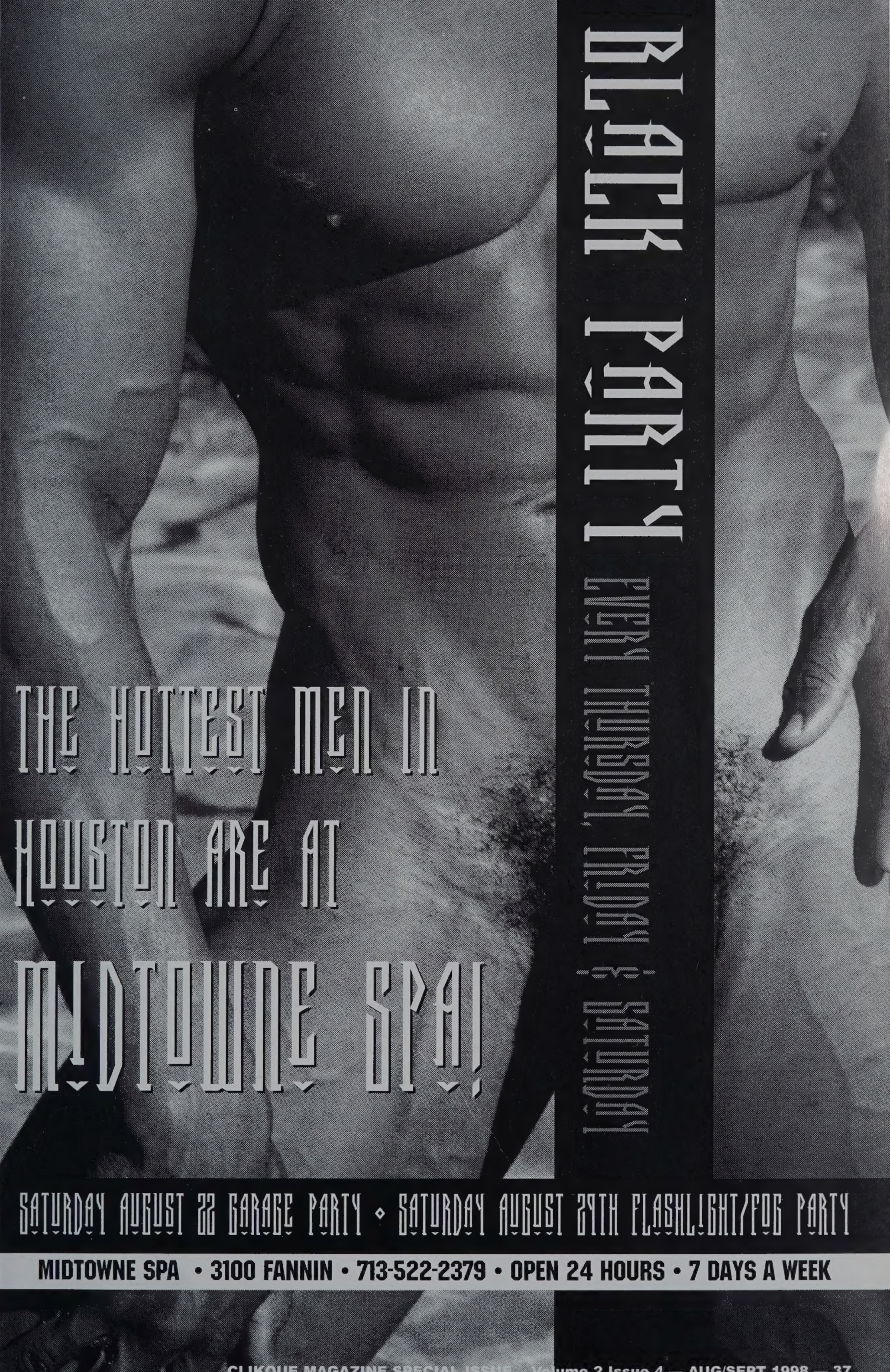
I have to admit, I was prepared to strongly dislike - alright, hate - the new Maxwell album, Embrya. Maybe it's because I was a fan of the lanky, bushy-haired bohemian, long before his Billboard chart success, before his first album Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite received a Grammy nomination for Best R&B album, before hordes of screaming female fans besieged him, before his publicity team transformed him into the most obnoxious neo-universalist hippie since Lenny Kravitz. I had purchased the Urban Hang Suite CD six months before it even made an impact on mainstream radio, when Columbia/Sony's distribution machine was hocking it on the open market for the unbelievably low price of $7.99 in the effort to establish positive word of mouth for their nappy-headed wannabe star. The campaign, of course, worked. His first two bass-heavy singles, "Ascension: Don't Ever Wonder" and "Somthin' Somthin'" climbed the R&B and pop charts with abandon, sailing on nostalgic memories of the mellow smooth sounds of Frankie Beverly and Maze of the late 1970's. Producing and writing his own material, Maxwell appeared to be a gifted trailblazer, on a quest to map out the always mystifying terrain of black (hetero)sexual romance. Rather than expose its enigma, Maxwell has always preferred to dwell in its mystique, to relish in its unknowableness.

I admittedly lost touch with Maxwell somewhere around the release of his third single, "Whenever, Whatever, Wherever". That's when, it seems, the new lovedaddy of the moment began to subtly adjust his image and material to suit his newfound fan base, especially his female audience, and in the process, seemed to take himself just a little too seriously. I remember when he began to do his interviews in a raspy, unaffected voice, presumably too weary from introspection to even make small talk; and in his vocal performances, he suddenly began to metamorphose into a effete version of Teddy Pendergrass, forever playing shy to the ever-gushing adoration of panty-throwing women, clumsily dancing around the microphone in uptempo tracks like some unholy combination of James Brown and Bobby Brown. He abandoned the simple effectiveness of the arrangements on the Urban Hang Suite for self-indulgent, rubato versions of his hits that ended up making him sound more like your open mike night hopeful than your polished first rate act. Maxwell's MTV Unplugged album was the biggest travesty of them all - seven songs (only two of them unreleased previously; neither an original tune) for the price of a regular CD? Who was he kidding? Apparently, the well of his musical creativity had run dry, and the only thing keeping this critic from going elsewhere for water was to wait and see how Maxwell could continue to modify his hair, from style to style. Would he braid the front and keep the back out? Or would he go back to an uncombed Afro? Beyond these questions, I naturally held out little hope for the promise of a landmark new release, and when I got early wind of its smugly nonsensical title, Embrya, I feared my fears were coming true.

The good news is that the album with the unspeakable title continues directly where the brilliance of Urban Hang Suite left off. Admittedly, Embrya doesn't sound as radio-oriented as that freshman release. With the exception of the Billy Ocean-esque first single, "Cococure: Luxurious", these songs aren't as compact as hummable tunes like "Ascension: Don't Ever Wonder" and "Somthin' Somthin'". As such, the album will likely find difficulty maintaining a secure place on the charts over time (it debuted at number three on the Billboard top 100 charts). And while Urban Hang Suite felt like a 'happening' because of its slow grassroots rise to success, Embrya is more of a highly-mediated, even careful, release. After all, Maxwell's not just making an artistic statement here; he's trying to maintain his reign as the svelte, retro gatekeeper of the spiritual bump ën grind. Yet what the LP lacks in spontaneity, it more than makes up in skill, polish and cosmopolitan style.

Embrya presents us with a picture of a world in which the spiritual possibilities of human intimacy are only weighted down to the earth by the gravity of relationship politics. I won't even pretend to claim to understand the meaning of many of the embarrassing titles, like "Gestation: Mythos" or "Everwanting: To Want You to Want" I'm still waiting to figure out what the hell a Cococure is, anyway. (Whatever it is, it sounds delicious and healthy. Somebody get me one, quick.) But like his neo-soul peers D'Angelo and Erykah Badu, Maxwell always makes his greatest impression not at the level of lyrics, but at the level of mood. His music evokes familiar memories of the darkened R&B nightclub, the Sunday soul lounge, the late evening Afrocentric coffeehouse that's been converted into a makeshift poetry night. It's where jazz becomes poetry becomes R&B becomes the gospel.It's a world of crushed velvet and hotel suites. There are no standout singles on Embrya, because in a way, the album strives to be nothing more than a series of sumptuous background sessions. It's as self-effacing and as reserved a project as any in recent memory. Yet its calibrated distance seems to perfectly compliment Maxwell himself, whose arresting voice floats on whispers of falsetto, shy coos, and silvery tones, at times causing shudders like the unexpected stroke of a few fingers down the spine. He never assaults you with his voice; rather he waits for you to pull closer to the speakers. He draws you in.

The sensual landscapes he constructs on ballads like "I Know these Things: Shouldn't You and I Submerge: Til We Become the Sun' take a skilled hand. He's helped immeasurably by the sparse, steady funk of Sweetback (Sade's backup band), who also appeared on Urban Hang Suite, by a venerable 1970's horn section, and by his own gorgeous background vocals, which he stacks like buttered pancakes, floating in syrupy, hypnotic melodies. The atmospheric are so finely tuned, that it's an album for any environment - but it's naked in its desire to end up in your bedroom. Embrya once again confirms that Maxwell's goal is not only to guide you to your bedroom as quickly as possible, but to get himself - at least psychically - into your bed. Always straddling the sophisticated and the carnal, he's like the voyeur who gets off on seeing you get yours. He wants his music to be your slave, the spiritual lubricant between you and your partner. These songs beg you just to move. Fearlessly, Maxwell invades your space with the turn of a phrase, with the scratchy strains of his lower register, with the trill of his high notes. Never less than experimental, the music itself mimics the rhythmic sensation of slow, gentle lovemaking. Like the tide, it comes and goes in waves of intensity and release, landing on tempos that approximate the calm but pulsating heartbeat. Embrya is bound to raise hormones levels wherever it travels. It's music that whispers in your ear, quietly, to let you know it's serious. It asks you to turn off the lights. And then it promises the possibility of redemption through the always underlying idea of warm bodies, pulling together, pushing together. And if there's a Cococure for that, I don't want it, don't need it.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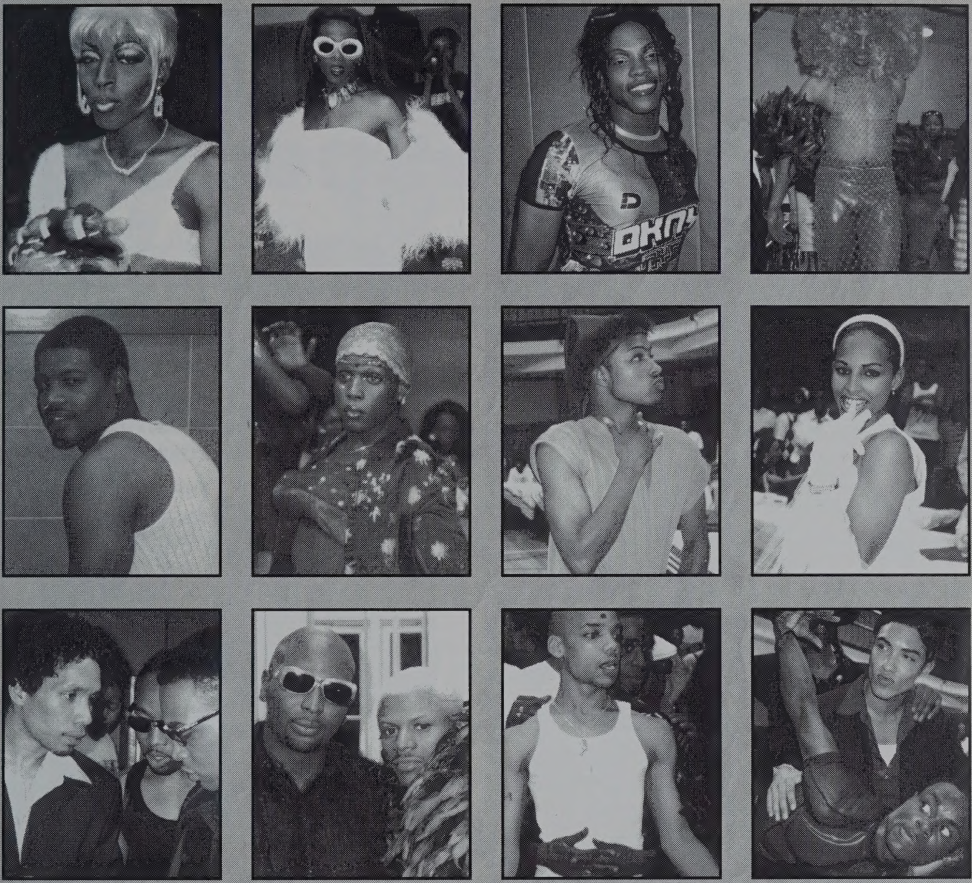
Lewis Nicholson
On Location

Move over ***Madonna***, out of the way Dennis, here comes ***Andre***. As ***Jack Mizrahi*** in his usual authoritative and eloquent commanding tone tells the ball room to rise and show some love for the unforgettable, ***Andre Mizrahi***, I sit back wondering how will he make his grand appearance? Dressed in Patent leather red pants and a shirt of red chains sporting a reddish blonde wig, Andre Mizrahi took the stage at the ***Battle of the States Ball*** held at the Y in Harlem last July with an equally reddish Blond dog in tow. One had to be there to capture the essence and drama that surrounds this walking bag of talent that just keeps on exploding. How many pieces of dynamite is this man made of? Andre Mizrahi is unstoppable. Just when you think he has done it all and has nothing left to shock the world with, he does it again. The night however belonged to the ***Georgia Peaches*** all the way from ***Atlanta*** who walked the runway, served the runway , ate the runway and left many a ***New Yorkers*** and ***Pennsylvianians*** gagging in their wake. The ***Jersey Girls*** had a poor showing and ***Washington DC*** did not do too well either. It was the surprise group from ***Denver*** who according to Commentator Jack Mizrahi, kept amassing the most points even though no one could see them. They held a commanding lead until the Georgia kids started punishing and he gave up on the idea of a clean sweep by the state of ***Colorado***. Jack sure knows how to keep a Ball hot, and we don't just mean the categories. Dressed in an all black ensemble with labels we don't know how to spell, he looked a picture of pure wealth. Those glasses, we think they were ***Gucci***, were to die for and the shirt, with its delicate hanging pieces, was a steal. My favorite piece of his ensemble was the shoe which looked very ***Paul Smith*** but, given my poor sense of designers they were probably something ***Prada or La Croix***. It was a night of many faces brought to you in Disney movie character form. The undeniably gorgeous, ***Brian Infinity,*** as the Genie, took the male face award but not after a fierce battle with Aladin, and the ever so lovely ***Chris Mugler*** appearing as the prince from Cinderella. The femme Queen face was even more hotly contested as ***Imani Milan***, the Naomi Campbell look alike dressed as a princess from any movie you wish, stormed the runway claiming the night to be hers. We respectfully gave her the Tiara, until the lovely ***Coco Chanel*** from Georgia cascaded onto the floor in an all-white ensemble Ball gown looking as ravishing as any queen could, and so the battle was on. Smiling gracefully she wooed the judges like a true princess,(Coco Chanel) while Miss Milan acted out of character by yelling at the judges that she was prettier even though darker complected. She was probably equally beautiful and, in some opinion, more beautiful than the Chanel Queen, but a radiant smile will always win over a loud mouthed queen. Keep smiling Coco. Imani, you are beautiful just smile and snag the crown next time. ***Eric Allure*** and his former Bazaar kids including ***Meechie*** tore up the runway in the Runway and Bazaar categories.



Top To Bottom Left To Right. Reality Jordan- Drags Face, Unforgetabble, Danielle Revlon, The Lady Ashley, Unstoppable, Andre Mizrahi, Lovely- Chris Mugler, Diva of the night- Meechie, This Elf had face, To be Real- Coco Chanel, Legends- Eric, Stanly, Jermaine, The Mizrahi powerhouse- Jack and Andre, Butch Queen Vogue Femme,The Winning New York Team.

The Georgia Peaches Reigned Supreme!

He truly showed out. It appeared Meechie was always on the floor snagging yet another trophy. The Ball was amazingly entertaining and of course when the favorite category was announced all hell broke loose. Did everyone come prepared to walk, ***"butch Queen Vogue femme"***. I know this category was major at the mini-balls but when did it become so popular at the regular balls. About 40 contestants jumped onto the floor but only the first 14 were allowed to compete. A ***major catfight ensued*** and it would be unfair to say who won since the contenders were all flawless.The kids from Atlanta were feirce but I think I saw more New Yorkers in the battle zone.There was the fierce ***Miss Asia***(egg foo yon), the truly ***cunty Mugler***, and all the former Bazaar kids who have given new meaning to the words vogue femme.Then there was the former Supreme turned Milan, but these kids change houses so much one can never keep up. Speaking of changing houses, last year we watched in disbelief as ***Joe Milan*** hit the runway and snatched a title at the ***Ebony Ball in Atlanta*** that we thought ***Fred Mugler*** had in the bag.This year his ravishing , boyish good looks walking as a part of the Atlanta face contingent lead by the glamorous and legendary ***Stewart Ebony***, now represents the ***House of Mugler***. As if the Mugler's need another face child.This Battle of the States Ball, even though it started way too late was probably one of the best Balls we at ***Clikque*** have ever attended. If we miss you at the Ball thrown by Jermaine the former , Mizrahi and Milan, then hopefully we will get your lovely carra at the ***Safari Ball*** in Atlanta.Until then, be safe.

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Top Twenty Signs That You May Be Gay...

#20 If 'Trade' means something to you other than barter, exchange.....you may be gay

#19. If Diana Ross is your hero for singing "I'm coming ....then you may be gay

#18. If "crafty" means something other than "skillful"......... you may be gay

#17. If you have an uncontrollable urge to dance when you hear house music...... YOU may be gay

#16. If you refer to nice things as cute'.......... you may definitely be gay

#15. If cruisin' means something other than a eisurely drive......... you may be gay

#14. If Linda Carter (Wonder Woman) is your soul inspiration or you know all the words to her theme song........you may be gay

#13. If you call younger people your "children" and they refer to you as Miss Mother ....you may be gay

#12. If all of your favorite singers are female.......you may be gay

#11. If you refer to Tony as Tonya and Carl as Carla........ you may be gay

#10. If you have excellent fashion sense........ you may be gay

#09. If you say she when talking about a he ....then you may be gay

#08. If you know all the words to "I'm Every Woman" and can sing it with conviction ....Oh yes, you may certainly be gay

#07. If you have an unexplained allergic reaction to 'fish'..........you may be gay

#06. If you use the word DRAMA to describe a particular situation.......you may be gay

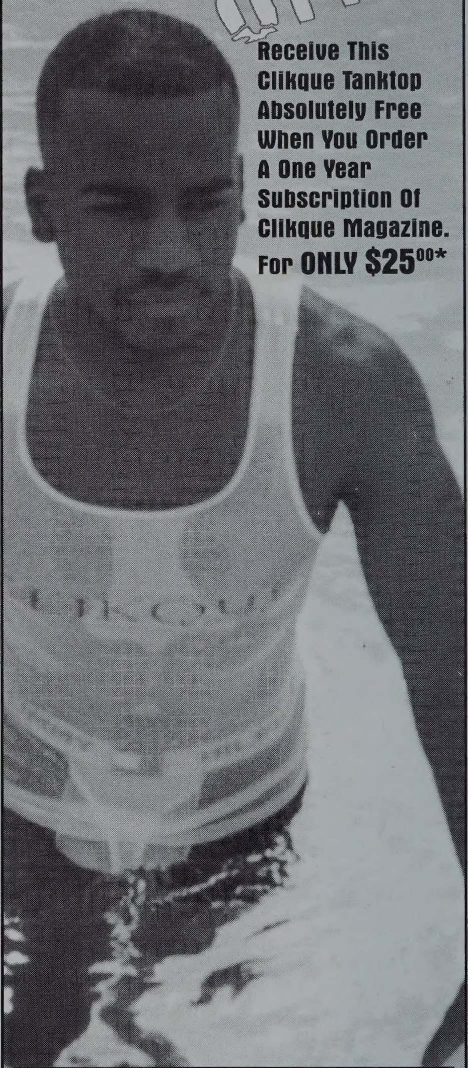
#05. If the words "fabulous" and "wonderful" are part of your everyday vocabulary ....you may as well be gay

#04. If you have to have a "cocktail" B4 going out......... you may be gay

#03. If you refer to good looking women as 'pretty' instead of FINE ....then you probably are gay

#02. If you pay an inordinate amount of time attending to the condition of your lips........then you should be gay And the

#1 sign that you may be gay : If you have an extra Hisss at the end of all wordsss that end in Sss...........you are positively, 100%, without a doubt GAY



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CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

My dear child. Just when you thought you were going to be an old maid I get the news for you. I see gowns, gowns, gowns in your future and though truthfully you should not wear white, this time the white one is yours. The man has finally shown up, it is now up to you to let him in and be happy. The days of forever the bridesmaid are over so start primping for that special day. Writer to me C/O Clikque I want to be a bridesmaid.

TAURUS

Stop being a bull and marry that cancerian boy or girl who has been chasing after you. They really do care about you and the two of you are perfectly matched. There is hardly anything that can come between the two of you so enjoy it. They are not as possessive as you might think and believe it or not, you secretly like being possessed. Go to Louis Shank, Macys or Ikea and start picking out the home furnishings.

GEMINI

The evil twin in you is about to come out, so ask all the bullshit artist to stay clear of you this month. Your patience is wearing thin for untruthful people but you must remember that you too have your time when you handle the truth carelessly. Why you get so agitated by liars beats me because you are prone to the same habits. Don't be so hard on yourself or other this month, relax a little.

CANCER

Your moodiness is getting in the way of your interpersonal relationships. It is time for you to stop swinging from one extreme to the other with your friends because they are getting tired if your fickleness. However since your intentions are usually good you will continue to win over important people to your side. True love is on the horizon with either an old flame or a new boy or girl wonder, so lighten up and live honey.

LEO

Stop thinking about yourself and your own hair weaves this month. As your birthday approaches make some commitment to making money this year and doing good things for others. Don't be so self centered as there is someone waiting for a change in your attitude so that they can do right by you. Your sex life is about to take a turn for the better. Also your finances will improve by month end as you are bound to hit pay dirt.

VIRGO

Don't lose sight of your dreams and goals that you have set for yourself. Your friends are there to help you along the way. Stop thinking that you are the only one with troubles in this world, because you are not. You are a little anal but, you are beautiful , you are honest, you are lovely, so live! Love is on the way.

LIBRA

My little darlings even though most of you tend to be overweight, this is your time to live. The summer is in full gear and everyone is chasing after you. Enjoy the attention but make sure to snag that child with whom you want to settle down , for come September things on the social scene will calm down, way down, for you.

SCORPIO

The honeymoon is over and reality has set in. The gold diggers amongst you is ready to move on to the next victim while the others of you are still pretending to be helplessly in love. Fester up to your wrong doings and let that partner of yours know exactly how you feel. Tell them your needs and real, not imagined desires and things will work out just fine. You can always use your sexual prowess to keep him happy.

SAGITTARIUS

The whore in you has decided to settle down for the moment and you expect everyone to follow suit. That is not how the world works honey. While you were out having every Dick, Tom, and Suzette you thought it was just fine. Now that you have found Miss or Mr. Right Now, and you think everyone else is a slut. Yes they may be, but so are you. You however are on a hiatus.

CAPRICORN

The town whore is alive and well and there is no denying that this is what you are. Try as you have been , you and I both know that you are only bullshitting yourself into thinking that you have fallen in love. You are in love only with yourself and the concept. Try having an open and honest relationship with your mate than all this trickery that is going on because the only one being fooled is you.

AQUARIUS

So you have fallen in and are still in love . I am happy for you but I must warn you not to get complacent as there are forces out there trying to pull you and your loved one apart. The good news is that you both love and want this relationship to work and so it will. For the single ones among you just be patient your knight in shining armor is on the horizon.

PISCES

Pieces- You have mellowed out some and are much more bearable as a person. The good person that you are is once again coming through and your friends are noticing a restoration of the old you. They love you more now than before but so do all the kids who have always wanted you. It is up to you to chose carefully whom you will allow into the inner circle as many unworthy are looking quite enticing these days. Love has always been there now money is on its way.

WE'RE RIGHT ON TARGET....... AREN'T WE?

CLIKQUE MAGAZINE — GET INTO IT!

ASK Bianca

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,1200 Mckinney St. Suite # 411-101, Houston Texas 77010. Or email her C/o Clikquem@aol.com

Hey kids,
My neighbors are dying but Killer paid the electric bill on time, so a girl like me is keeping real cool sipping frozen margaritas on the enclosed patio of the new house. Our relationship is still intact according to us so I am quite ready to dish out advice to you my loyal readers, so let the therapy begin. You may lay on the couch or sit in the chair, just stay focussed.
Love Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I have face, I have carta! mamma ketch, it is ovah for me.I am a usually sweet person but like Latifah I have had it up to here with these trifling negroes in the DC area. I earn an honest living and I buy my own clothing and pay my bills on time. My problem, however, is that there are some kids who call themselves God-fearing Christians who can't seem to stop speaking evil of me.Their stories are unfounded and straight up lies. For example, the one that says I don't like to work and that a man is supporting me. While I wish I had a man supporting me that is not true yet. The part that bothers me most though, is that they keep telling this man with whom I am having a special relationship that I am not worth shit, and then they tell me he says I am a nymphomaniac with an insatiable desire for sex. They are trying to break us up.These kids won't leave me alone and I am about to strangle the bitch who came on to me, then went and told my boyfriend that I always come on to him. Help me before I end up in prison for one of these trifling hoes. Thanks in advance - Bothered in DC

Dear Bothered in DC,
Girl, I am sorry to hear about your problem but had this letter not been post marked I would have sworn my editor wrote it. He has a similar problem with the church going queens here in Houston and this is how I told him to deal with it. First give God thanks that they are still talking about you, because this is a clear indication that you are alive and still looking glamorous. They don't talk about ugly or non-threatening people. You are obviously a star if when they get together over a good cup of latte the first thing off their lips is your name. You are fabulous. When you run into these viscous girls in the street be as plastic as saran wrap and act like you love them dearly. This will make them bitter to see you so happy. Have their boyfriends and then send the thank you notes to the girls instead. If that doesn't make you feel better, then throw a party and invite them, dress like the goddess that you are, act like a star, then they will truly talk about you. Take it from me, it really isn't so bad being talked about; try being ignored where ever you go and see how that feels.
love Bianca.

Dear Bianca,

I thought I had gotten over my ex a while back but now I am not sure. I have dated since we broke up but I am still not into a committed relationship. My problem is this. My best friend and I debated the issue of whether or not to read his diary that he had left behind at my house after he decided to leave. It has been a year since he left and I won the debate over the issue of, to read or not to read and so we ended up reading the damn diary. Our findings were mystifying and unbelievable. This man got fucked in parks, under bridges and in train stations all over town. Sometimes he claimed to have lined up a gang to bang his hole. Reading this made me sick to my stomach and all the hatred for him came back. I thought I was over him, so why does it hurt so bad? I have tested negative for HIV since I read the diary but I still feel like kicking his ass. What am I supposed to do?
Hating him terribly in New York

Dear HHTINY,

You are probably over him but the knowledge that he had you and New York together is bound to bother you. Thank God you are still negative and double thank him that this man walked out of your life. Let the sorry moronic, asshole know that had he told you of his escapades to the park at night you would have joined him, and it would have been fun for the both of you. If you are not that kind of girl then act like you never read the diary since you really shouldn't have in the first place. Let bygones be by gones. On the other hand get a bat and I will fly to New York and help you beat that bitch with the bat.
Love and Penis! Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I am in love with a crooked dick man who could not care two cahoots about me. He screws me once in a while and is always chasing other asses all over town. What do I do?
In love with the crooked dick.

Miss Gyrll,

I understand your obsession with the crooked dick. Killer has a nice crooked one that does me lovely as well.However you have a problem and you have acknowledged it. There is only one thing left for you to do and that is solve it. Next time the

ASK Bianca

Let Bianca Help You With Your Problems.

Write Now!

man comes to your house bound and gagg him and never let him leave until you have had enough to last you until he decides to come over again.
love Bianca.

Dear Bianca,

I've gotten myself into a big mess and don't know what to do. About a year ago, I asked my bestfriend to hook me up with a friend of someone he was dating. Well, for too many reasons to name here, that didn't happen. Here we are a year later and as fate would have it, me and this person finally hooked up. We seemed to hit it off quite well. It's so strange and yet so perfect, the things we have in common. We spend hours on end on the telephone and have cultivated a great relationship with email. It's only natural that the sex would be intense, passionate, and over all "all that". The problem is that he's involved with someone. In fact they live together. At first, that didn't bother me because I was "beating someone else's time"; I was the "clean up man, just doing my duty". Well, here lately, I'm tired of being number 2 and I'm ready to step up to the plate and claim my riteful throne of #1. I realize I stand the chance of having my position "snatched" away, by the next big butt with a smile, but I'm enjoying the moment. He tells me to be patient, that his relationship is on a rocky course headed to hell, but now I'm having 2nd and third thoughts. Miss Bianca, answer this question without a fierce read, because I don't want to have to read your editor about promising all those boys he's going to put their picture on the cover. Working Hard & Flying Right while going crazy over the boy that DELIVERS TIME

Dear Whatever,

I don't have to read you about being ready for your rightful place in this man's life. You are already there. Second in the eyes of the world but first in his heart. Take it from me. You have it good. Ask the gyrll whose shoes you want to step into, the bullshit she has to put up with on a daily basis. She does the dishes, the laundry, etc and you get the flowers and the big mandingo dick. Shut your mouth and just swallow... your pride that is. Wedding Gowns are over rated and very uncomfortable I might add.Take it form me, I have tried on and modeled many. Before Killer came along I was about to marry every man that crawled into my bed.But he taught me a very valuable lesson. As long as you are not married it is not cheating. I love it ,I love it!!! On, to the issue of my editor. Is it my editor or my publisher who keeps telling boys that they will be on the cover of the next issue? Actually I know it is my editor, but so what? If you co-owned this fierce publication, I am sure you would have to do some twenty covers per month in order no to get beaten by those promises. So don't get your stilettos caught up in your hairnet, over my editors shenanigans, just be content as number 2, isn't that were you always ranked in high school. OOOOps! my bad, at graduation that was 222.
Love Bianca

Super Model Search

Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer, and Rachel Hunter are flying to a super models conference in Paris, when suddenly the Captain of the plane announces: "We have just lost all power to the engines of the plane and are going to make an emergency crash landing - please assume the brace position mmediately!" Immediately the three models look at each other and start preparing for the worst. Claudia quickly pulls out some lipstick and make-up and starts fixing her face up. Bewildered, Naomi and Rachel ask: "What in the hell are you doing Claudia fixing up your make-up-we are about to fricking crash!" Claudia responds: "Well I know for a fact that the rescue workers will search for, and save first, the people who have the best looking faces-this is why I am putting on my make-up." Immediately Rachel Hunter rips open her blouse to expose two beautiful mounds of flesh which inexplicably defy the law of gravity. Totally confused, Naomi and Claudia shout: "Rachel have you lost your fucking senses?? Why are you baring your breasts for everyone to see-we are about to die!" Rachel responds: "I have it on good authority that in plane crashes, the rescue workers look to save first the women with big beautiful breasts-this is why I am exposing my tits!" Not hesitating for a moment, Naomi Campbell pulls down her skirt and Panties to expose her female "love triangle." Freaking out, Claudia and Rachel Yell: "Naomi - Are your fucking crazy?? Why are you exposing your pussy for everyone to see??" Calmly, Naomi responds: "BITCH PLEASE! I know for a fact that the first thing the rescue workers always look for in plane crashes is the black box!!"

Stepping Out

YOUR PREMIER GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below.

ATLANTA

ARMORY, 836 Juniper, Atlanta 30309, 404-881-9280.

CLUB FUSION, 550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Firdays and Sundays

LORETTA'S, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta 30308, 404-874-8125.

MARQUETT, Atlanta, GA

OTHERSIDE, 1924 Piedmont Rd., Atlanta 30324, 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

PALACE, 13 Simpson St., Atlanta

WAREHOUSE/TRAXX, 306 Luckie St., N.W., Atlanta 30313, 404-681-4422 Black and gay on Saturday. Straight on Thursday and Friday.

CHICAGO

BATON SHOW LOUNGE, 436 N. Clark St., Chicago 60610, 312-644-5269.

BERLIN, 954 W. Belmont, Chicago 60657, 773-348-4975. Blackest on third Sunday of month..

FACES, 130 N. 4th St., East St. Louis 62201, 618-271-7410.

GENERATOR, 306 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60661, 312-243-8889.

GENTRY ON RUSH, 712 N. Rush St., Chicago 60611, 312-664-1033. Blackest on Saturday.

GENTRY ON HALSTED, 3320 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

JEFFREY PUB, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago 60649, 773-363-8555.
LITTLE JIM'S, 3501 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-871-6116. Blackest on Saturday.

NUTBUSH CITY LIMITS, 301 N. Harlem Ave., Forest Park 60130, 708-366-5117.

ROSCOE'S TAVERN & CAFE, 3354-6 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-281-3355.

DALLAS

METRO, 2204 Elm St., Dallas 75201, 214-742-2101. (Mail: Box 1187, Dallas, TX 75221). manoman226 @aol.com

TRAXX, 1920 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas 75215, 214-421-8181.

VILLAGE STATION, 3911 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75219, 214-526-0690.

HOUSTON

INCOGNITO, 2524 McKinney St., Houston 77003, 713-237-9431.

RASCALS, 1318 Westheimer, 77006. 713-942-CLUB

MIAMI/FT, LAUD.

BOARDWALK, 17008 Collins Ave. N., North Miami Beach 33160, 305-354-8617.

CLUB OBSESSIONS, 7900 N.E. First Ave., Miami 33138.

COPA NIGHTCLUB, 2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 33316. Blackest on Sunday.

ON THE WATERFRONT, 3615 N.W. South River Dr., Miami 33142, 305-635-5500. Blackest on Tuesday.

SUGAR'S, 17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami 33160-3113, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

NEW YORK

CLIT CLUB, 432 W. 14th St., New York 10014, 212-406-1114. Fridays only. Women.

KELLERS, 384 West St., New York 10014, 212-243-1907.

MANHATTAN MONSTER, 80 Grove St., New York 10014, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT, 1 Front St., Brooklyn 11201, 718-852-0139.

OCTAGON, 555 W. 33rd St., New York 10001, 212-947-0400.

RED ZONE, 2018 45th St., Astoria 11105-1230.

SOUND FACTORY, 618 W. 46th St., New York 10001, 212-643-0728. Blackest on Saturday.

TWO POTATO, 143 Christopher St., New York 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

ORLANDO / TAMPA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE***, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32805, 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS****, 375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando 32803, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

TRACKS, 1430 E. 7th Ave., Tampa 33605, 813-247-2711. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

WASHINGTON DC

BACHELOR'S MILL, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-1931.

CIRCLE AKA RASCAL'S, 1629 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 20036, 202-462-5575. Blackest Friday and Saturday nights, and Sunday afternoon.

DELTA ELITE, 3734 10th St., N.E., Washington 20017, 202-529-0626. Gay on Friday and Saturday.

EDGE, 56 L St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

MR. P'S, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-9009.

TRACKS 2000, 1111 - 1st St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-3320. Blackest on Sunday. Mostly black Womyn's Night last Tuesday of month..

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Beverly Hills, CA 90211
(310) 380-9494
Subscriptions cost $18

Out in Black
Bi Monthly Zine
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(919) 828-2364

REAL Magazine
The magazine for Black Gay & Lesbian Brothers & Sisters.
P.O. Box 21615
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(202) 452-5993
Subscriptions cost $18

SBC Magazine
The magazine for the Africentric homosexual and their friends.
1155 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90019
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12-month subscriptions cost $36; $60 outside the U.S.

Venus Magazine
For People of African Descent In The Life.
P.O. Box 89238
Atlanta, GA 30312
(404) 755-8711
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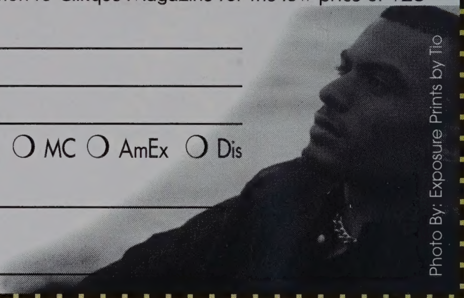

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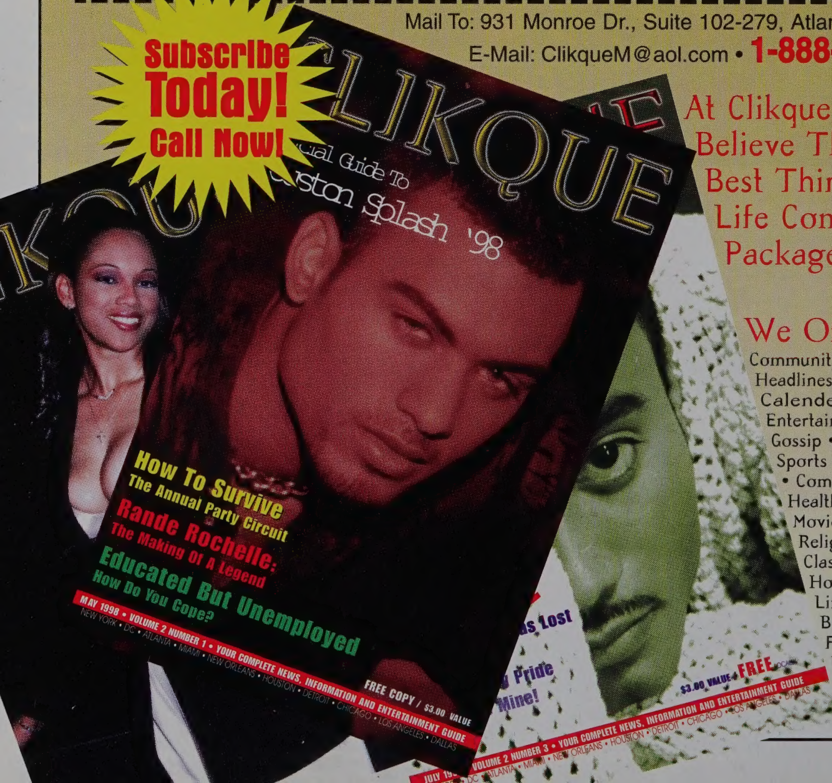

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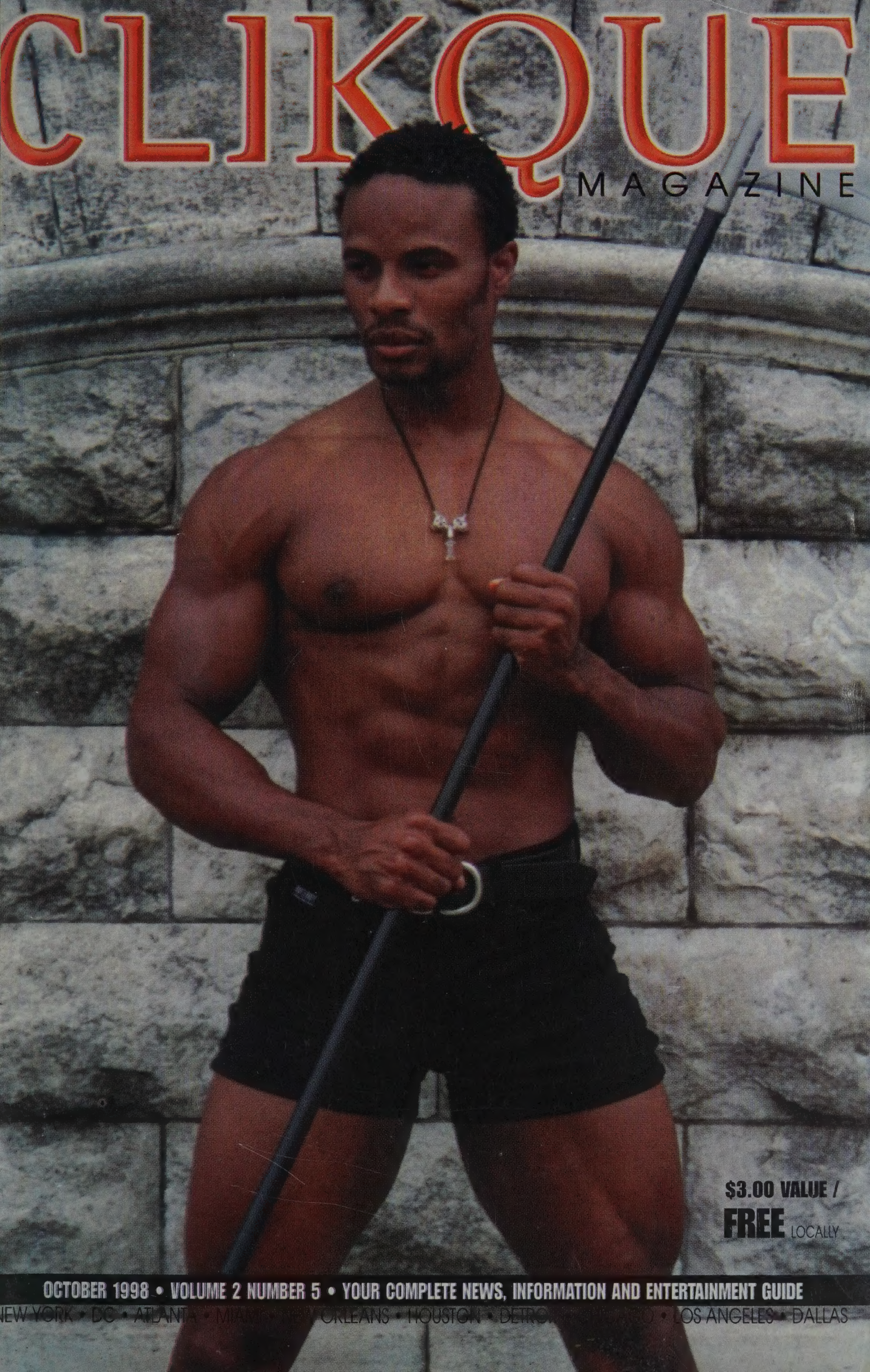

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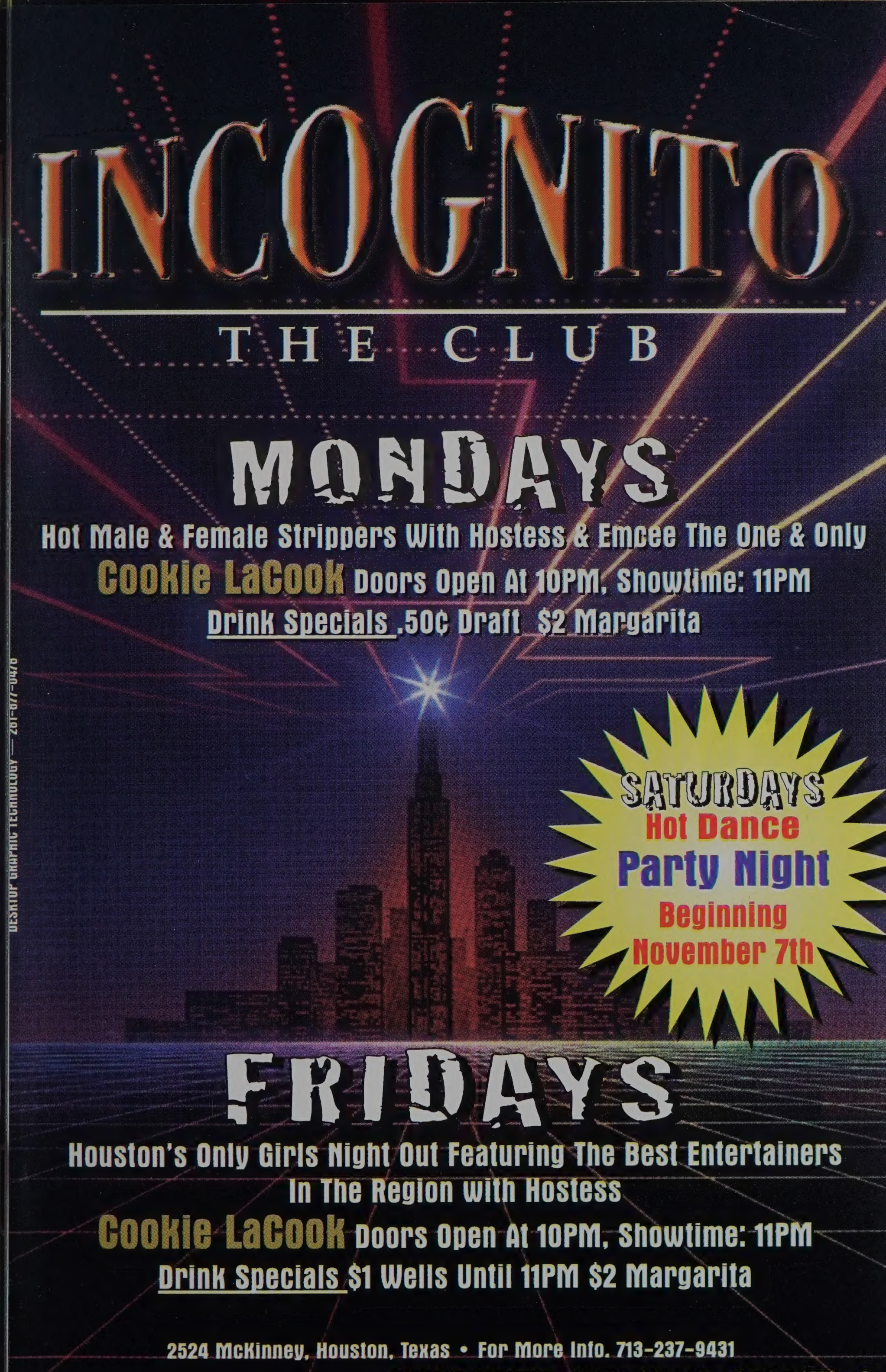

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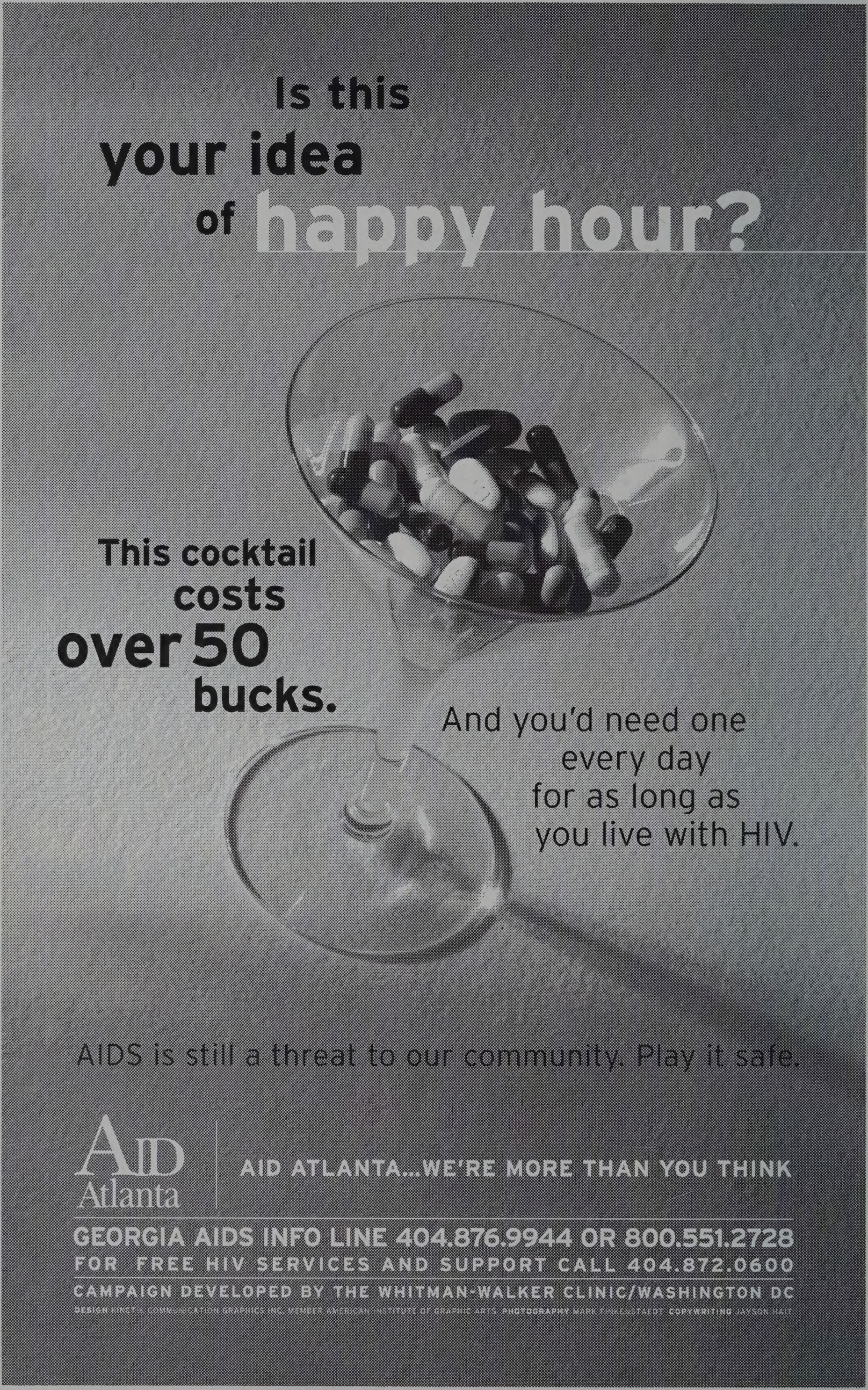

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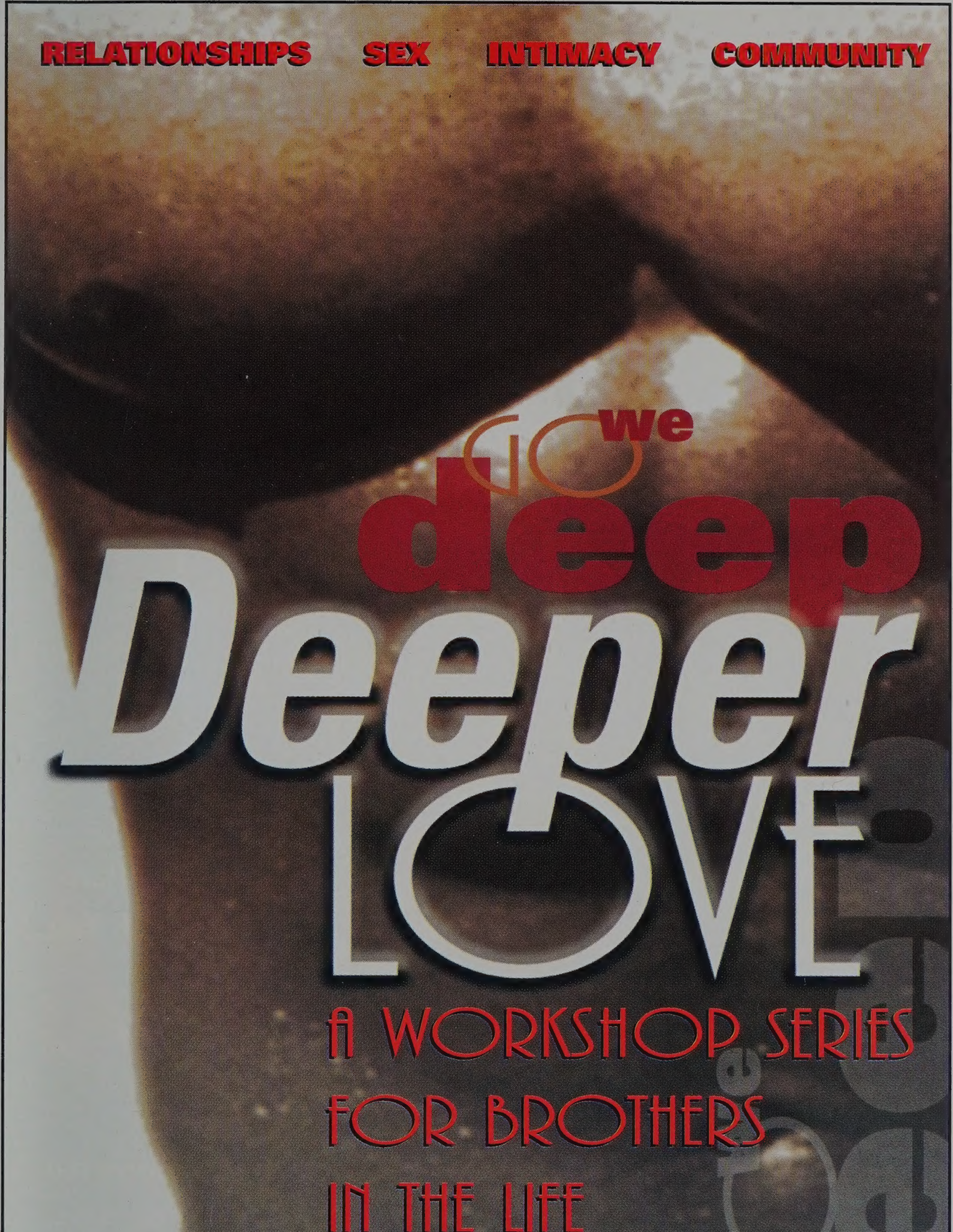
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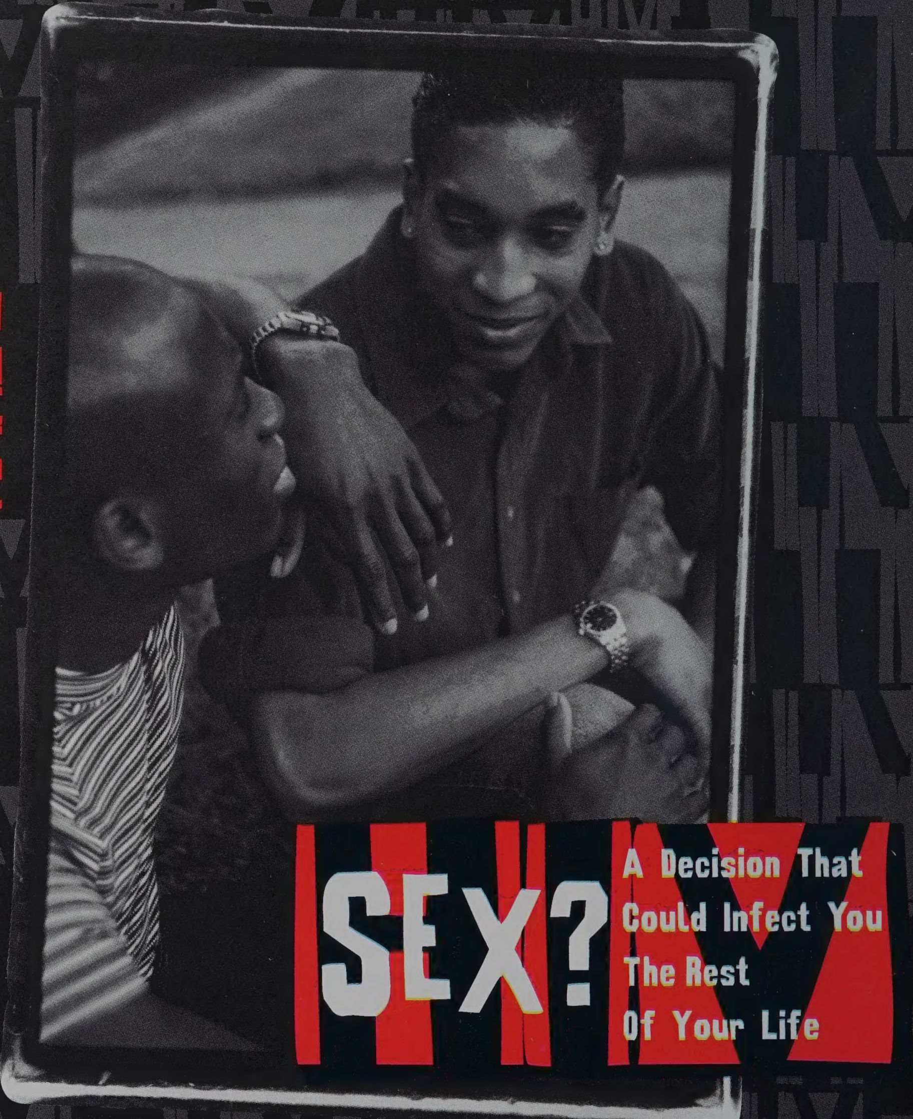
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OCTOBER 1998 • VOL 2 ISSUE 5

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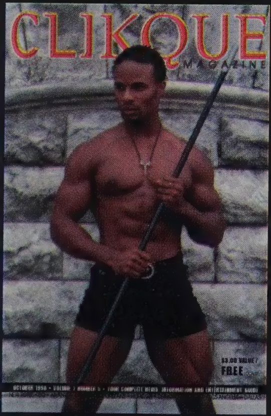

On The Cover

Lance Forrest

Cover Photo by: Nestor Zapata

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WHAT'S UP WITH HIV PREVENTION

A Focus Group for Gay & Bisexual Men of African Decent

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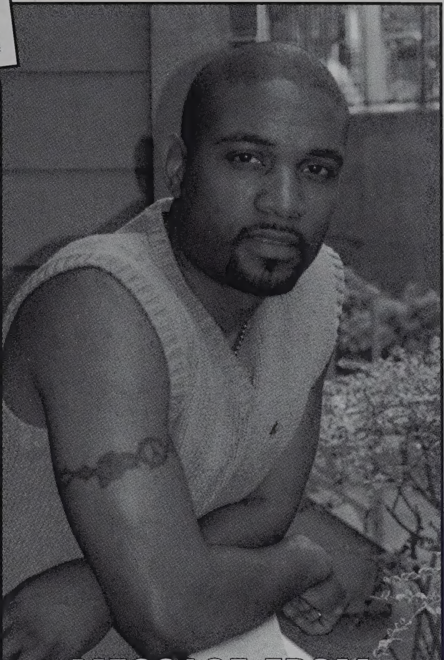


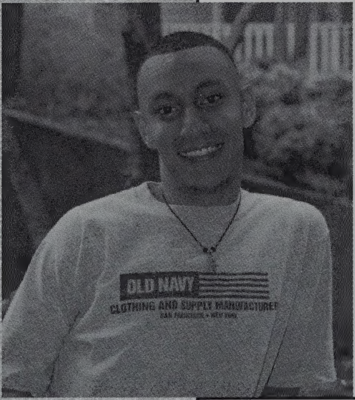
MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

It is indeed my pleasure to offer you another issue of Clikque Magazine, The Nation's premier publication for African Americans "In The Life".

Despite the fact that Clikque Magazine is relatively new on the blocks, our name and appealing reputation is transcending to homes all over the country. At Clikque, it is our option that African Americans in the life does not have to settle for inferior representation. Therefore, We will continue to be a benchmark for other such publications in our industry.

Please continue to send your comments and articles to us. We like hearing from you.

Read on, and enjoy.



Nestor Zapata

Here's a brief look at what thousands of people are saying about us

"I want to thank you for coming out w/such a professional, well rounded magazine for the Black Community. It has been needed for a long time. I recently reviewed your magazine the other day from a friend that went to the Hotlanta festivities this past Labor day. I'm very impressed with the photos, information, content and the quality of the magazine. I applaud you again the staff of Clikque. Continue doing a great job for our Black Gay Community."

Trevoir Hudson — Romulus, MI

"Finally, a quality, colorful magazine for African American in the life. I hope that our community gives your magazine the support that it truly deserves..."

Donavan Miles — Chicago, Il

"First I must say that your magazine is fabulous. The graphics and art work are far superior to any Black gay publication I have ever read. ..."

Mykal Parker — New York, NY

"... I am very impressed with your magazine. The presentation is professional, the articles thought provoking, and the photos visually stimulating!"

Lynwoodt Jenkins — Atlanta Ga

"I must say that your magazine is the best looking and most professional publication for gay African Americans that I have ever seen."

Bobby Blake — Los Anglos, CA

I would like to congratulate you on your magazine. I think it is great to see a magazine promoting black gay people. I look forward to your magazine every month..."

Stephen Scott — Washington, DC

"....I saw the latest edition and was again impressed with the cover and design, ... overall, a hell of a job by you and your staff. The story from the guy about being HIV positive was exceptionally well-written and bold. Please commend him for me. it was one of the most revealing pieces I have encountered from a brother. His background, humanity and humility speak for itself. Good job overall from all contributors."

Lee W. — Editor, Houston Chronicle

"I want to take this opportunity to let you know that I have seen your magazine and I am very impressed with the content, the layout, and the writing. I saw the issue announcing Gay Pride Weekend - it was very informative."

Lorenzo D. Pugh — Atlanta, Ga

"....I enjoy reading Clikque Magazine and think it is the best thing that has hit gay black houston in a while. Best regards."

Charles W. Harvey — Houston TX

People & Places

On The Move

By Dwight Powell

Where's The Party At?

So, how would you describe the hottest club in Atlanta? Is it the club that has the best music, the best faces, the best bodies, or simply the best atmosphere. Well, while all of these elements enhance the success of a nightclub, for me, the most important element or the one most significant facet that assist in my decision to revisit a nightclub, if it's not the only one in town, is it's staff. A staff that exemplifies to its patrons, even if it's not expressed in words, shows that their business is appreciated and that they are valued as a customer. Such was the case at my first visit to Fusion, a nightclub in Atlanta. that "kids" all around the county had been buzzing about for the past.

What's All The Fuss About?

On that long, drawn-out, hot summer night, I took note that the patrons were warmly greeted from the moment they approached the entrance of the huge club. I'm not sure if most of them saw with their eyes what I was seeing through mine. Yes, the music was great, the men were in fact beautiful, the atmosphere, simply awesome. But that's not what moved me. Extremely impressed by their professionalism, courtesy, and their attentive nature, I thought to myself, I must get to the bottom of this madness. Who or what makes this all happen.

New Kids On The Block?

And there he was, standing in an attentive silence. Gliding through the night with a seemingly effortless, however graceful flow. No I'm not highlighting Rosalin Russell in Aunty Mame, rather, I am referencing Reginald Thomas, affectionately known as Reggie, General Manager of the club . I was introduced to Reggie by Raymond Carter, President of Raymond Carter and Associated, and "then" promoter of the nightclub (Fusion).

It would take a few weeks before I would finally sit down with Reggie and "get the skinny" behind the success of Fusion. Reggie, who recently left the Edge in Washington DC, was summoned by Raymond Carter, his employer for the past 4 years, to help promote Fusion Fridays in Atlanta. He was then given the huge task of hiring the entire staff to serve and cater to the needs of Atlanta's black gay community. With the assistance of Martin Little, Leondra Robinson, and Darroe Johnson, they cultivated and hand-picked a staff that is now known for great customer service that rivals TRAXX and other great nightclubs.

Prior to Sunday, September XX, Reginald had been working in the shadow of Raymond Carter for many years. Now it is his time to move to the front and let folks see the man behind the man. Clikque has just learned that Reggie recently resigned as General Manager of Raymond Carter & Associates to server as President of Black Gay Men Together (BGMT), the new club promoters at Fusion.

The Reason?

While nobody will disagree that Raymond Carter is an excellent club promoter with savvy business skills, one would have to wonder why this unexpected

CPNTINUE ON PAGE 37

HIV/AIDS

HEADLINERS

BC-AIDS Cell Death,0493

New research shows how HIV suddenly erupts, increases cell death

By **JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA** - *AP Science Writer*

Molecular biologists may have discovered how AIDS suddenly can erupt into a catastrophic illness after lurking for years as a low-grade infection.New research by a nationwide team of scientists suggests that the human immunodeficiency virus eventually attacks a class of disease-fighting cells produced by the immune system that were thought to be impervious to attack by the virus.The results, which have been limited so far to test-tube experiments, could provide drug makers with a new target for drugs designed to keep the virus in check, as well as vaccines aimed at preventing infection.Researchers said the attack on this different group of immune cells, known as CD8 T cells, triggers an explosion of cell death that exhausts the immune system and leaves the body vulnerable to pneumonia and other secondary infections that typically kill most AIDS patients.The new study was published in the latest issue of the journal Nature.Exactly how AIDS affects the CD8 cells remains unclear, though.Researchers said one possibility is that the virus reduces the immune system's social control over its own powerful cells. The disruption to this precise chemical balance triggers a potentially fatal domino effect that not only leaves the body vulnerable to infection, but also may contribute to the loss of brain cells that causes AIDS-related dementia and other debilitating side effects.Because CD8 T cells are professional killers, they may do serious harm if they end up in the wrong place, said French AIDS researcher Jean Claude Ameisen of the Hospital Bichat in Paris.For several years, scientists have known that HIV readily infects one type of immune cell known as the CD4, or helper T cell, by locking onto a protein on its surface and breaching its cell wall.The CD8 cells were thought to have better protection. Yet in the latter stages of AIDS, CD8 cells start dwindling rapidly, too.Researchers said their experiments show that a strain of HIV that usually evolves late in the course of infection latches onto a particular surface protein of the CD8 cell known as CXCR4.But unlike in CD4 cells, the virus does not actually take over its cellular machinery.Instead, they report, when the virus latches onto the CXCR4 protein the CD8 cell sees the change as a kind of a death signal and commits suicide.The cell death process is complex, and quickly involves an array of other cell types that soon may subvert the entire immune system and lead to full-blown AIDS symptoms, said lead author Georges Herbein of the Picower Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, N.Y.Because CD8 cells are thought to limit the spread of the infection, the failure of CD8 function could contribute to the development of AIDS, he said.AP-WS-09-10-98 1233EDT

PRESS RELEASE:

for the African Americans Taking Charge AIDS updates. National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum

Los Angeles, CA — Forty nine (49) local community based organizations and health departments in partnership with the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum (the Forum have joined forces to present National Townhall meetings and Updates from the 12th World AIDS Conference in six US cities.

African Americans account for almost half of all new AIDS cases, a far greater proportion than any other racial group. Yet, they appear to have benefited the least from the powerful new combination therapies. "Throughout the epidemic, African Americans have fared worse than whites or other ethnic groups on every health-care measure." says Christopher Smith the Project Director of the Forum's AIDS Prevention Team. "We are diagnosed later in the course of disease, receive worse care, benefit last from new advances in treatment, and die faster".

Unfortunately, this has not changed with the advent of protease inhibitors and other potent new therapies. Although the new drugs are cutting death rates among all races, the decline in deaths among blacks lags behind the declines among whites and Latinos. And thousands of African Americans are continuing to get infected every year.

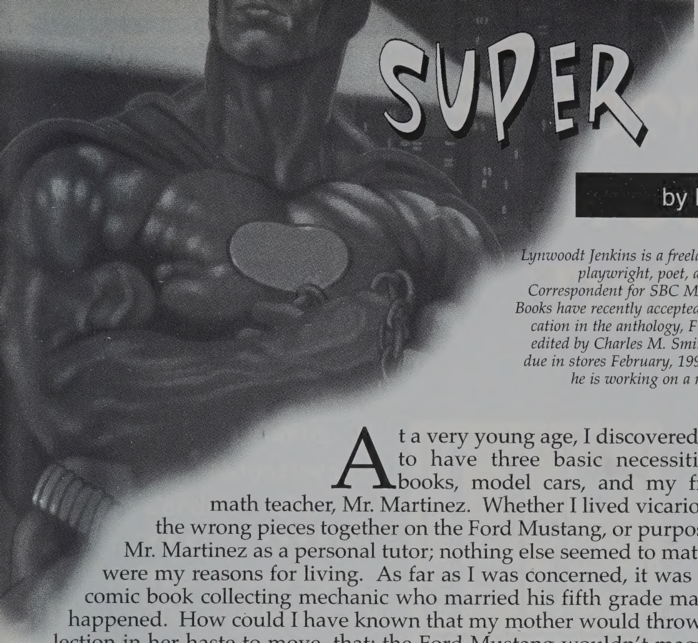
This project is very exciting. says Phill Wilson, founder of the Forum. "As Calvin Rolark said 'Nobody can save us from us, but us'. We have 43 organizations involved in this effort. The majority of them are black community based organizations. These updates were organized by African Americans, for African Americans. All of the doctors, treatment advocates, case managers and HIV/AIDS presenters are black. As far as I know, this is the first time such an initiative has been taken".

The six cities selected for this project paint a dramatic picture of how disproportionately the African American community is impacted by HIV/AIDS.

CITY	% OF BLACK AIDS CASES
Atlanta, GA	53.2%
Baltimore, MD	83.7%
Detroit, MI	64%
Denver, CO	13%
Los Angeles, CA	19%
Newark	74%

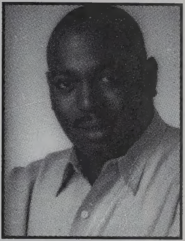
See Page 27 For Conference Update Dates

That National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum is the only national organization that advocates for the nation's 2.5 million lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people of African descent. The organization was founded in 1988 in Los Angeles and opened a national office in Washington, DC in 1996.



SUPER HEROES

by **Lynwoodt B. Jenkins**



Lynwoodt Jenkins is a freelance journalist, playwright, poet, and the Atlanta Correspondent for SBC Magazine. Avon Books have recently accepted him for publication in the anthology, Fighting Words, edited by Charles M. Smith. The book is due in stores February, 1999. Currently, he is working on a novel of fiction.

At a very young age, I discovered that I had to have three basic necessities: comic books, model cars, and my fifth grade math teacher, Mr. Martinez. Whether I lived vicariously through Wolverine, glued the wrong pieces together on the Ford Mustang, or purposefully feigned dyslexia to gain Mr. Martinez as a personal tutor; nothing else seemed to matter. At the time, I thought they were my reasons for living. As far as I was concerned, it was my destiny to grow up to be a comic book collecting mechanic who married his fifth grade math teacher. Of course, it never happened. How could I have known that my mother would throw out my entire comic book collection in her haste to move, that; the Ford Mustang wouldn't magically become real, or that; Mr. Martinez would have never given me his hand in marriage. To say the least, I was devastated. I knew then that, being an adult wasn't going to be fun at all. In fact, I believed it to be quite painful. Ironically, as a boy growing up without a father, the final blow came when I learned that there were no such things as super heroes. Especially, if they tried to give blood.

Not long ago, I tested negative for the HIV/AIDS virus. Renewed, I was determined to share my joy with the world. So, I decided to donate blood. It was a big mistake! As I stood in line in front of the Red Cross mobile with the rest of my co-workers, I waited my turn, stepped in, sat, then, proceeded to answer a series of personal and medical questions. One of which was, had I ever engaged in sexual activity with another man? Though, I knew it would soon become office gossip, I responded, "yes."

"I'm sorry, sir, but we can't accept your blood. You fall into the high-risk category, and there's nothing we can do. However, you're more than welcome to have a T-shirt and some cookies for your time." The nurse responded.

A shirt, and some cookies? I felt like I'd been slapped across the face by Mary Poppins. Though, she tried to be as compassionate as possible, I was insulted, then dismissed. The combination of sickness and rage that gathered in my stomach moved to lodge itself in my throat. I was speechless. Humiliated by the experience, I thought, isn't all the blood tested, regardless of a person's sexuality? What about those who needed my blood to live? I was only trying to help. I know it was childish to have even thought it, but I just wanted to strap on the cape and save the day, one last time.

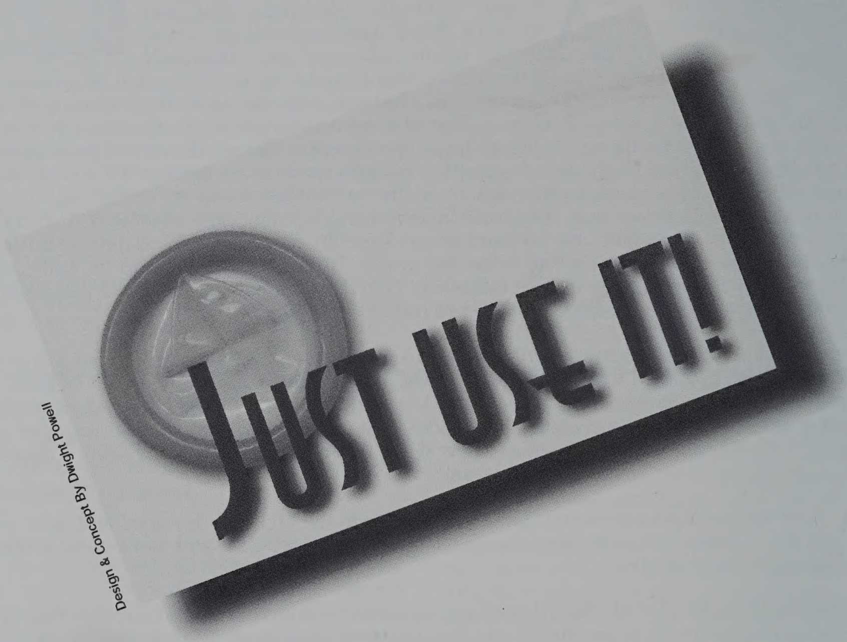
A week later, I was still unsettled by the whole episode. I was determined to find answers, and fast! There was only one thing left to do. I called the Red Cross, The National Red Cross Testing Center, and even the Center for Disease Control. I told my story, requested a more suitable explanation, and each time, I endured a maze of transfers. All before, Beth Greenburg, the (former C.O.O.) Chief Operating Officer of The Red Cross, calmed me down.

"There are precautions that should have avoided this, Mr. Jenkins." Said, Mrs. Greenburg. "The bar code allows you to save face for situations like that. It should've been given to you to read, prior to you being interviewed. Then, you would have the right to decline at your discretion." She elaborated.

"Well, I wasn't given anything to read, and what about this high risk category? What's that about?" I snapped! I had an idea, but I wanted it confirmed.

CPNTINUE ON PAGE 37

HERE'S MY CARD...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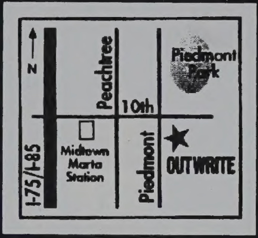

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CALL FOR PAPERS

When and Where We Enter
(Literature Institute of the 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference and Institutes)
February 11-14, 1999
Westin Atlanta North Hotel, Atlanta, GA

Paper, workshop, and panel proposals are solicited for the Literature Institute of the 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference and Institutes. The Literature Institute is scheduled to include the presentation of critical scholarship in academic exchange sessions, workshops, and the evening will close with open readings. The Literature Institute will be held during the first day of the conference, Thursday February 11, 1999. The purpose of the institute is to bring together scholars, writers, artists, and literature enthusiasts to explore existing critical and creative camps and to fully develop a body of critical scholarship that engages the interconnectivity of race, sexual orientation and expression, gender, class, and ethnicity issues. The review committee encourages proposals that engage interdisciplinary methodologies which examine images of Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, (lgbt) and same-gender-loving (sgl) people in literature, film, theater, or TV.

Proposals should be representative of original scholarship, dealing with issues of literary criticism, poetic interpretation and performance, theatrical representation, or heuristic workshops. Possible papers or panels might address:
- assumptions and complications of black literature, black literary theory, and black literary history
- the production of black lgbt and sgl characterizations by white and/or heterosexual artists
- interracial relationships in black lgbt or sgl texts
- publishing and the establishment of a national black lgbt/sgl press
- folklore and material culture specific to black lgbt and sgl communities
- "reading" texts

Paper and Workshop Proposals must include the following: Name, address, phone, fax, and email information of the primary presenter A typed abstract (200 word maximum) A program narrative for workshops (maximum 5 pages, typed) A brief biography of each presenter

Proposals may be submitted in Microsoft Word or Wordperfect format and delivered by email (ForumConf@aol.com). Proposals may also be submitted on IBM formatted diskette via US mail (1612 K Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20006). Questions, comments, or concerns may be directed to Alaric Blair (ablair@cbd.net) or Kenyatta Dorey Graves kdgraves@wam.umd.edu) or by phone at 202.483.6786.

Proposals must be RECEIVED by November 1, 1998.

Up Close

With Niesha Dupree

The Legendary Mother of Atlanta

By Lewis Nicholson

We live in a small world where we are only separated by six degrees, but in this tiny world of ours, big things are happening. Speaking of big, allow us to introduce you, to our featured star this month, none other than Atlanta's own Niesha Dupree, Aka, Al Thomas.

A plus sized diva with a big heart, Niesha has been a stalwart in the community and a surrogate and Step mom/ dad to many. Nieshas talents are many and varied and she uses them well for the betterment of self and community. Like most Southern Belles, she too holds a number of pageant titles, tiaras and thrones, but the difference is that she uses her spotlight in the industry as a platform, for the community services in which she is involved. Sounds like Miss America? Well Maybe, but miss Duprees reign never ends, as her platform of helping those who need her is always in effect.

Niesha has been Miss Black Universe, which she now co-ordinates on a yearly basis, Miss Gamma, Miss World, Miss Liberty International among others, but it was her crowning glory as Miss National At Large that she holds as her fondest memory to date. She was overwhelmed when her name was announced as winner in Orlando Fla, because just about everyone whom she has supported over the years was in attendance to witness the occasion, including her many sponsors.

But what is it that makes Niesha Dupree stand out among her peers and why is she so popular? Could it be, because she was a Who's Who Among American Scholars in high school? Or could it be that at Mississippi State University, in her sophomore year she was inducted into the Leadership Hall of Fame? Or could it be that she is just riding on the fact that she shares the great Martin Luther King Jr's birthday? No! It has nothing to do with any of these things, it is her ability to get along with all peoples from varying walks of life. " My ability to relate to any and everybody. I can talk to anyone from the broke without a penny, to the rich and famous, from A-Z, I can relate. I have shared many of these experiences so I can feel what others are feeling or going through."

Niesha will be doing an AIDS benefit in the Atlanta area along with Tasha Khan next month. Though the event is mainly heterosexual, Niesha expects it to be fun and besides she says it is for a worthy cause. A volunteer for many charities and causes, Niesha can also be seen at Loretta's on Monday nights where she hosts a weekly talent show. We at Clikque got our first Glimpse of the talented, unstoppable, undeniably unique performer when she was a guest of ours at the Battle of the South In Houston. She just let the kids have it.

Niesha is extremely grateful to the city of Atlanta, for allowing her the opportunity to make it, to the status of Legendary in the Entertainment industry. She also expresses her gratitude to Joshua Johnson of New Orleans for his support and backing in her career and personal life. Sounds like she has a man to me. Born under the sign of Capricorn, Niesha is a devoted spirit to her cause of improving the quality of life in her community and for that we at Clikque salute her.

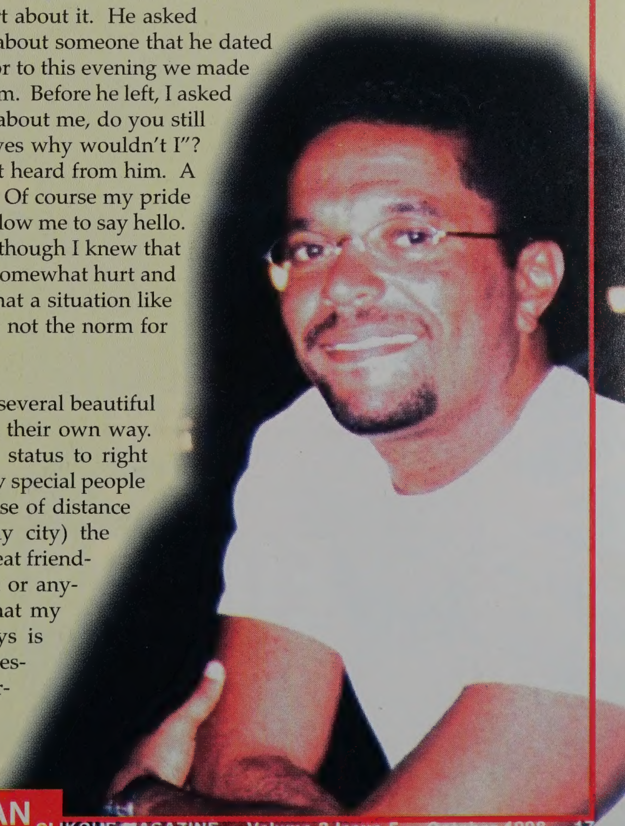
HAPPY, SINGLE AND DATING

(A Follow-up To Last Issue's Positive About Being Positive)

In this lifestyle dating is already hard enough so when a life-threatening virus is factored into the picture dating is made twice as hard. Me being the person that I have grown to be, I always try to be honest with myself and others. Honesty has never been a problem of mine however timing has been and still is. I cannot seem to figure out when the appropriate time is time someone that I am dating my HIV status. Should be on the first date, should it be right before the lights go out or should it be 3 months down the road after we have already slept together? Typically, in the past I have always laid right on the table on the first date. I've made somewhat a test a character. If I get a phone call after they have learned about my status, then they have passed. If I do not receive a phone call, then they have failed and they are labeled as ignorant. Logically, I know that this test is unfair because I realize that people are afraid of the unknown and letting your feelings get involved with someone that could possibly die is very scary. Which is why I wrote the article in last months' issue because for me it was therapeutic and I now can assume that everyone I encounter already knows my status.

Recently, over the Labor Day weekend, I was at a friend's house and a guy literally begged my friend to give me his phone number. I took his information even though I knew that he was not my type. But, never leaving a stone unturned in my search for love, I called him. We had a nice conversation, not as nice as another one that I had during the same weekend, but nice nonetheless. We spoke a few times on the phone. Then one night I invited him over. For some reason he seemed nervous to me and I asked him if he was. He assured that he was not nervous he just had work on his mind. During the course of our conversation the topic of HIV came up and I disclosed my status to him. He seemed somewhat stunned but tried to be a good sport about it. He asked questions and even offered a story about someone that he dated in the past that was "positive". Prior to this evening we made dinner plans for the next night at 8pm. Before he left, I asked him "given all that you now know about me, do you still want to go to dinner"? He said, "yes why wouldn't I"? Four weeks later and I still have not heard from him. A few nights ago I saw him at a club. Of course my pride and that ignorant label would not allow me to say hello. The truth of the matter is that even though I knew that person was not my type, I still feel somewhat hurt and rejected. This is not the first time that a situation like this has occurred but it is definitely not the norm for my life.

This year God has blessed me with several beautiful men, each of them special to me in their own way. Most of these men I disclosed my status to right away. Amazingly, to all of these very special people my status did not matter but because of distance (none of these people lived in my city) the encounters fizzled or turned into great friendships. I do not claim to be psychic or anything but I think that the reason that my status did not matter to these guys is because they realized that they question how love comes. After all tomorrow is not promised to anyone.



BY SCOTT BOGAN

Over the past few years, the American economy has been experiencing an enormous growth and buying power. Citizens are enjoying the qualities of life far better than ever before, and for the first time since President Nixon, there is a budget surplus. Yes the country is finally in the BLACK.

So why are politicians and the media trying to convince us that the President Of The United States Of America should be impeached for his sexual mis-conduct? I should hope that none of our readership, shares this right wing philosophy, because it is certainly not in keeping with our own rhetoric and lifestyle. If the President were to admit fondling a few male secret service agents, can you imagine the chaos and pandemonium that would break loose across the country. So let me hope that you all see the Monica Lewinsky affair for what it is. A sorry misdeed which deserves forgiveness and should be left alone. Never has ones bedroom dealing interfered with ones ability to do their work. So let us leave the issue alone.

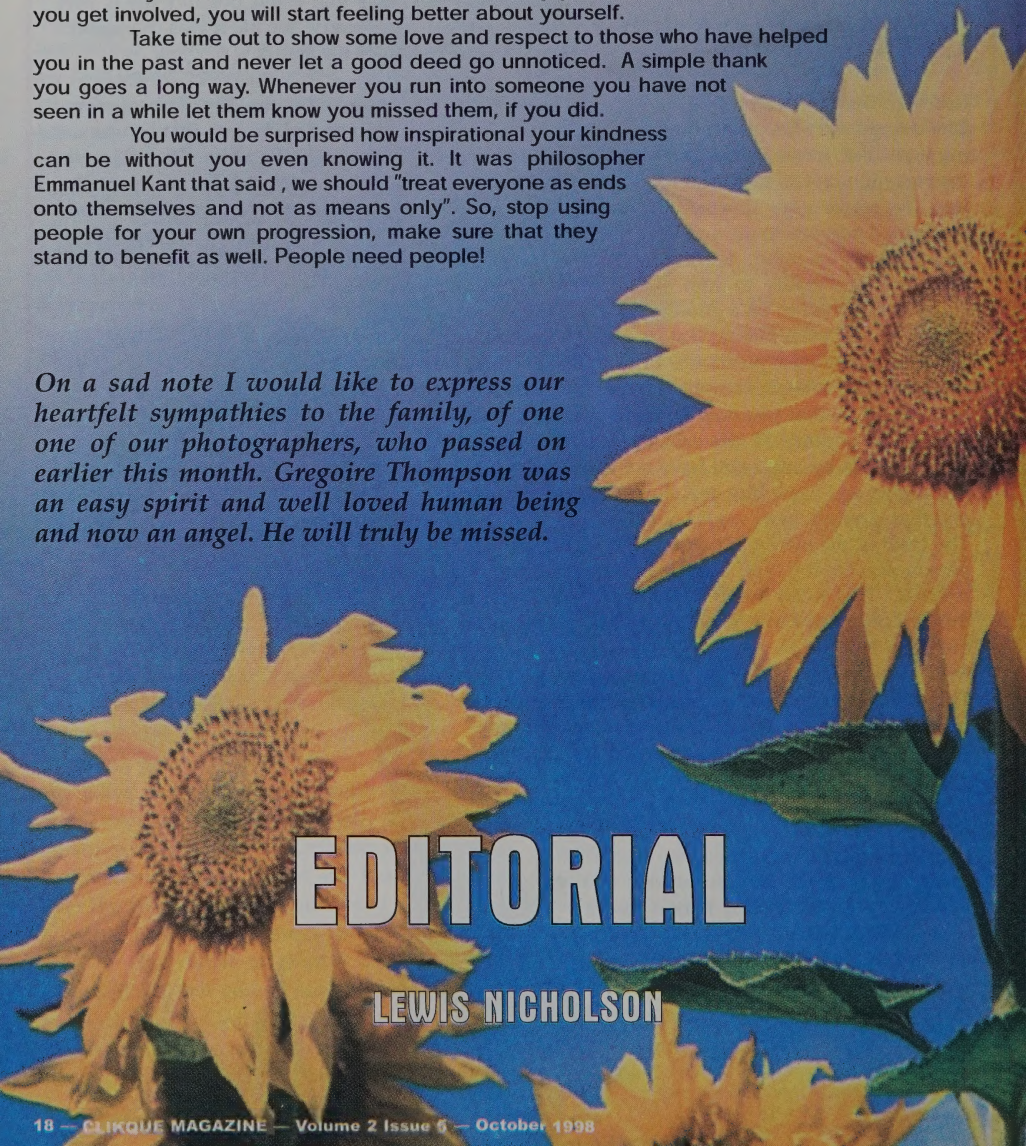
Across America the Kenneth Starr Report has been the number one seller, this month in bookstores. We know what these people are doing with that piece of porn. The same thing some of us do when we get our subscriptions to Playgirl, need I say more.

On more poignant issues, its very important for us to support each other and not wait until we are affected to start doing something for a cause. Volunteers are needed for many missions and not only AIDS related ones. Trust me, when I say your life will become more meaningful, once you get involved, you will start feeling better about yourself.

Take time out to show some love and respect to those who have helped you in the past and never let a good deed go unnoticed. A simple thank you goes a long way. Whenever you run into someone you have not seen in a while let them know you missed them, if you did.

You would be surprised how inspirational your kindness can be without you even knowing it. It was philosopher Emmanuel Kant that said , we should "treat everyone as ends onto themselves and not as means only". So, stop using people for your own progression, make sure that they stand to benefit as well. People need people!

On a sad note I would like to express our heartfelt sympathies to the family, of one one of our photographers, who passed on earlier this month. Gregoire Thompson was an easy spirit and well loved human being and now an angel. He will truly be missed.



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STAR WATCH

Tony Braxton

By: Cynthia Tornquist

NEW YORK (CNN) — If she chose, five-time Grammy winner Toni Braxton could dwell on the troubles in her life. She's currently embroiled in a contract dispute with her recording label, LaFace, and she recently filed for bankruptcy, listing debts in excess of $2 million. But instead of dwelling on the bad, Braxton is taking on a new challenge: Broadway. The 31-year-old singer, whose hits include "Breathe Again" and "You're Making Me High," is stirring things up on the Great White Way as Belle in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." "Let's just say Belle is like a big ol' glass of milk and I'm adding Nestle chocolate syrup to it," Braxton says.

I'm not an actor title

Singing on Broadway is different than singing in a recording studio, Braxton admits. "There are things I have to do to be better because i'm not an actor," she says. "There are things I have to do because I haven't trained to be a Broadway singer. My voice is very thick and rich, like a milkshake, and that tends to be sexy. But for Belle, who's like 16 or 19, you don't want her to come across that sexy, so I have to make my tone a little brighter." But both Braxton's composer and co-star say the singer shouldn't change too much. "She's got that wonderful, husky, beautiful vocal quality that's unlike any Belle we've had before," says composer Alan Menken. "She should not take Toni Braxton too much out of the perforance of Belle, because I think that's going to be the winning combin,tion," says ,co-star Meshach Taylor. And if she should feel like she needs any more advice, another recording, star who's played the role is ready to help. "I did send her a note," says former Belle Deborah Gibson, "saying if she had any questions, or anything — which she didn't. Here I am, thinking, 'I've been doing this a year.'" Braxton rehearses

It Made Me Grow Up.

Braxton says the show's creators have customized the role for her. Along with a new song, they've given her wardrobe a more Braxton-esque style. "There's a little shoulder, a little bit of my back out," Braxton says. "They've really gone out of their way to make it more comfortable for me." The experience is helping Braxton overcome her legal and financial troubles, which forced her to gain a new perspective on life. "It made me grow up," she says. "You can't blame your parents, you can't blame your friends ... you have to look at yourself and make things happen for yourself."

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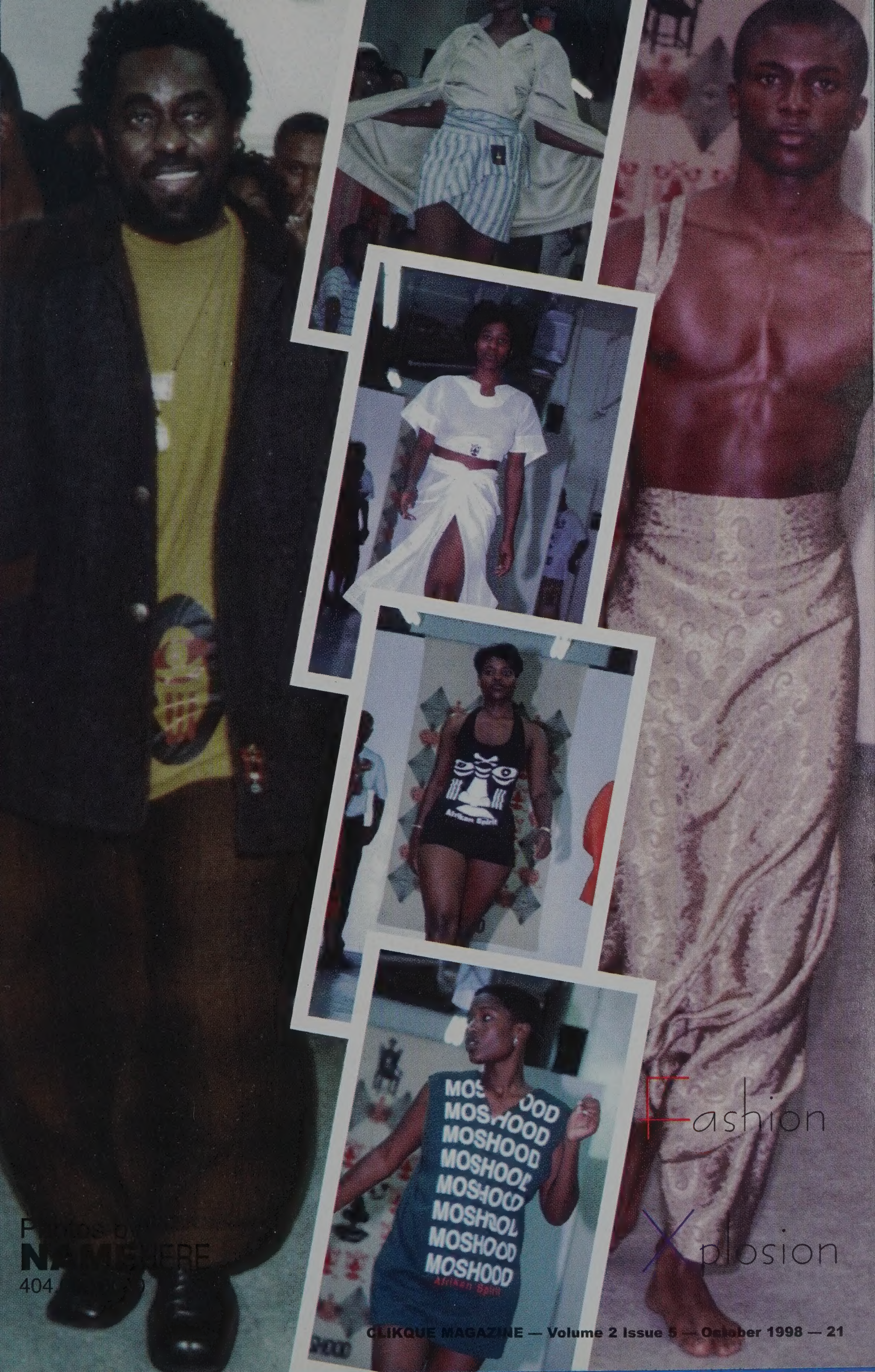
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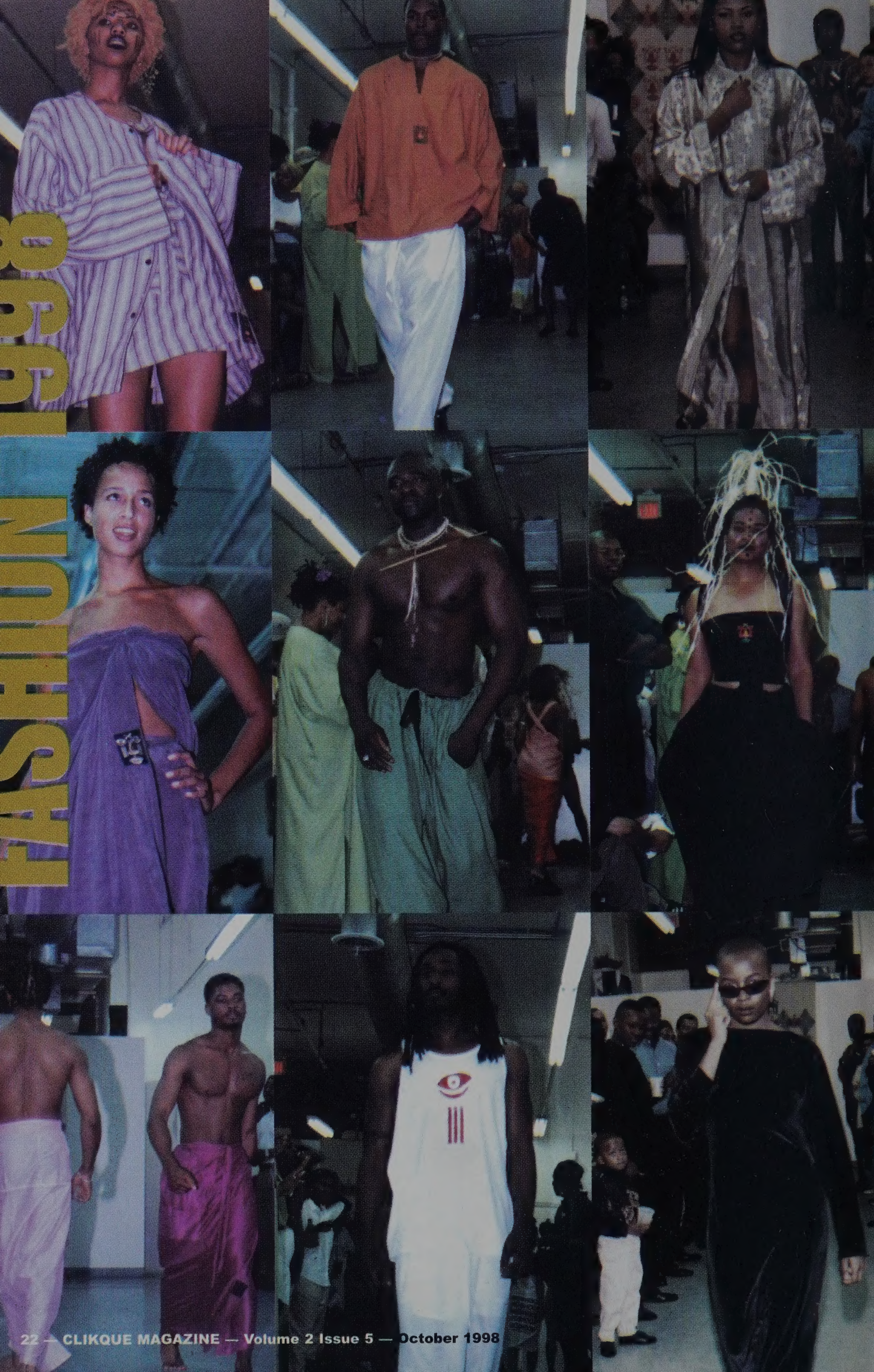

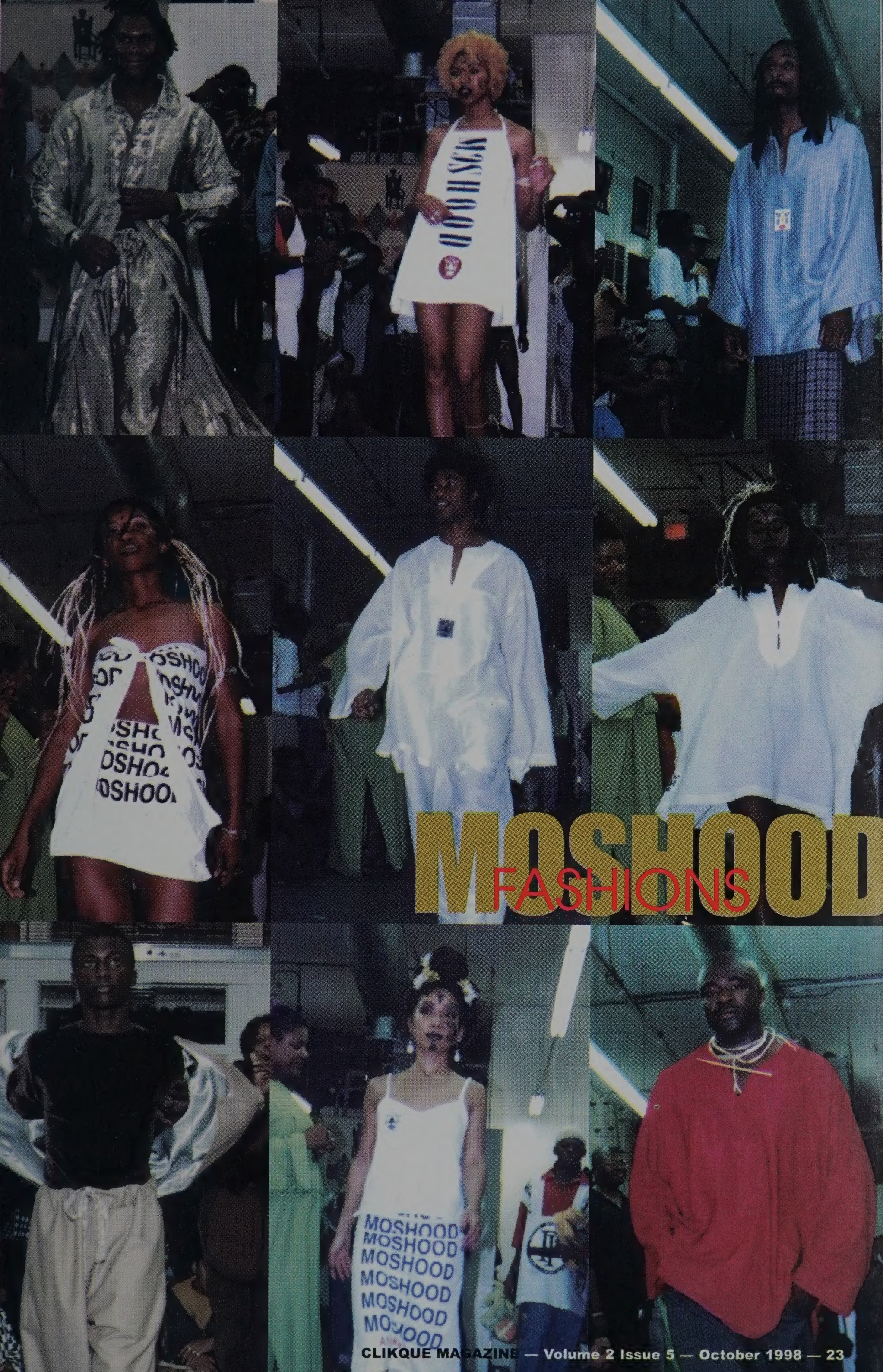

MOSHOOD FASHIONS

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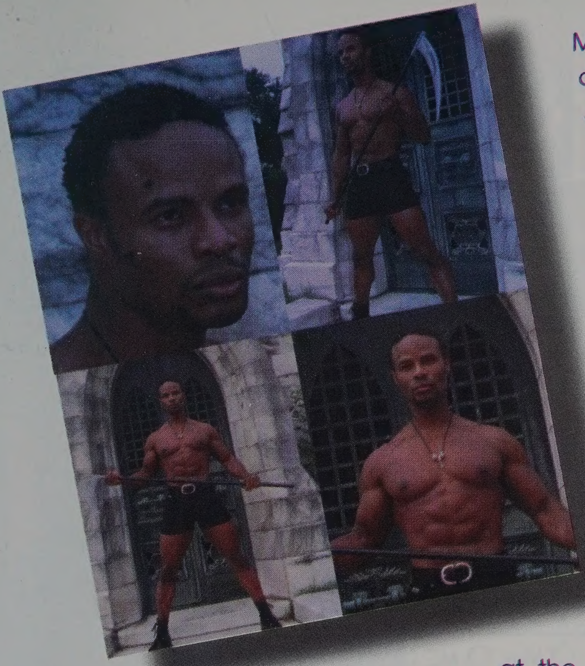
SIR LANCE ALOT

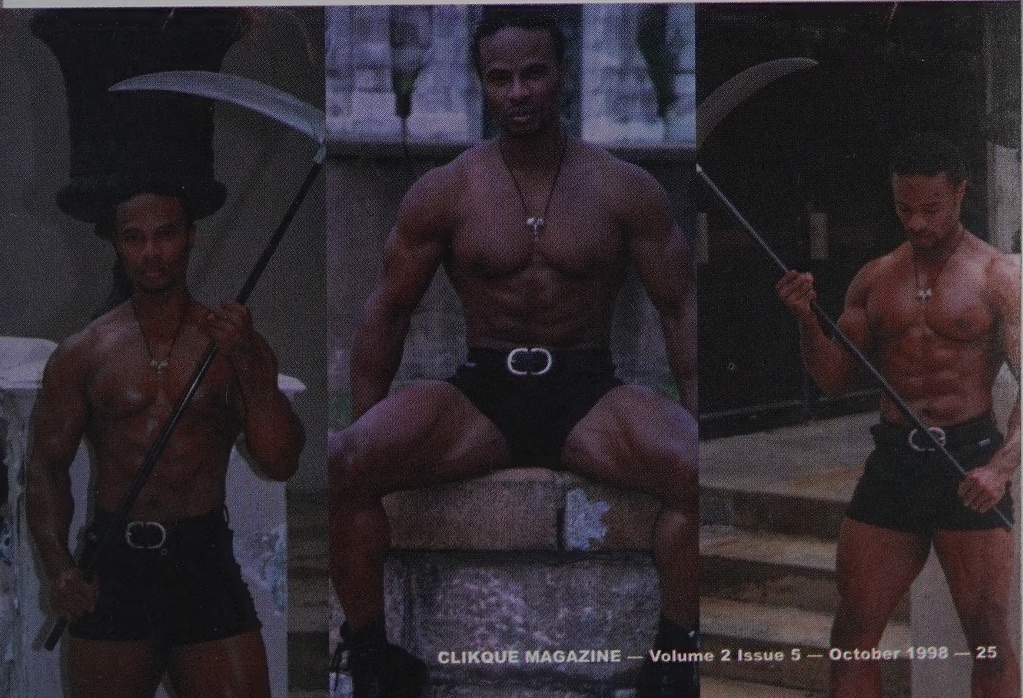
Photos By Nestor Zapata & Renwick Farmer



Meet Lance Forrest. This 31 year old native of Camden, New Jersey, resides in Atlanta where he is a personal trainer and a motivated small business owner. His future plans are to strengthen his business and make his product more visable to the public.

Mr. Forest philosophy of life is "We were put on earth to make things happen so we shouldn't sit around and dewl on the things that we CAN'T change. And work on things that we CAN change. By looking at the opticles and options we have and make them happen."

He believes in a good karma- What you put out is what you get back. So next time you are in ATL, he reminds you that a STRONG MIND makes a STRONG BODY.



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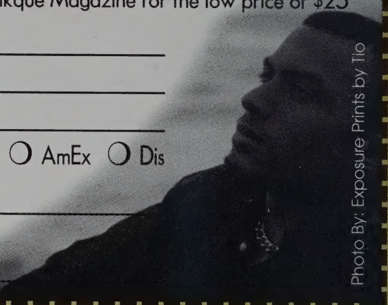

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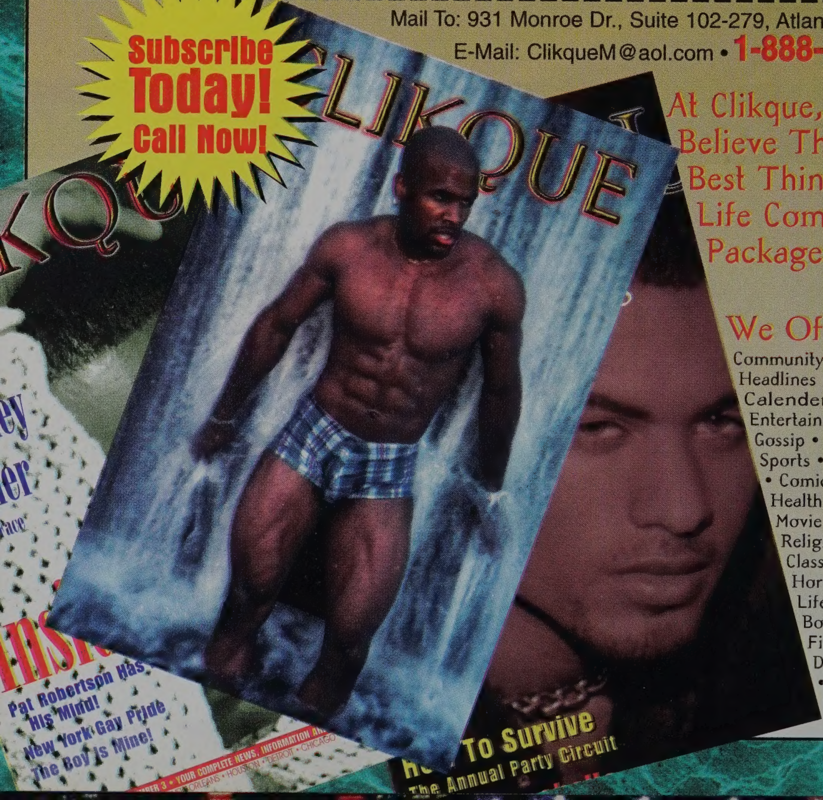

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Saturday 10th Oct — 6PM

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Starring: Big Yo, Ms. Allegra, Lady Champagne, Ms. Ann, and Noble.

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Queens Of The Night w/Cookie LaCook

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Sunday 11th Oct — 5PM

5PM: Miss Black Entertainer '98 - Kaviar
Freda Payne
Tiffany Brooks, Tijuanna Brooks & Chuncey Davenport
6PM: Chanel Nichole, Alexis Vanderhurst, Dominique Deveraux, Tiffinay Brooks, Demetrious Domino
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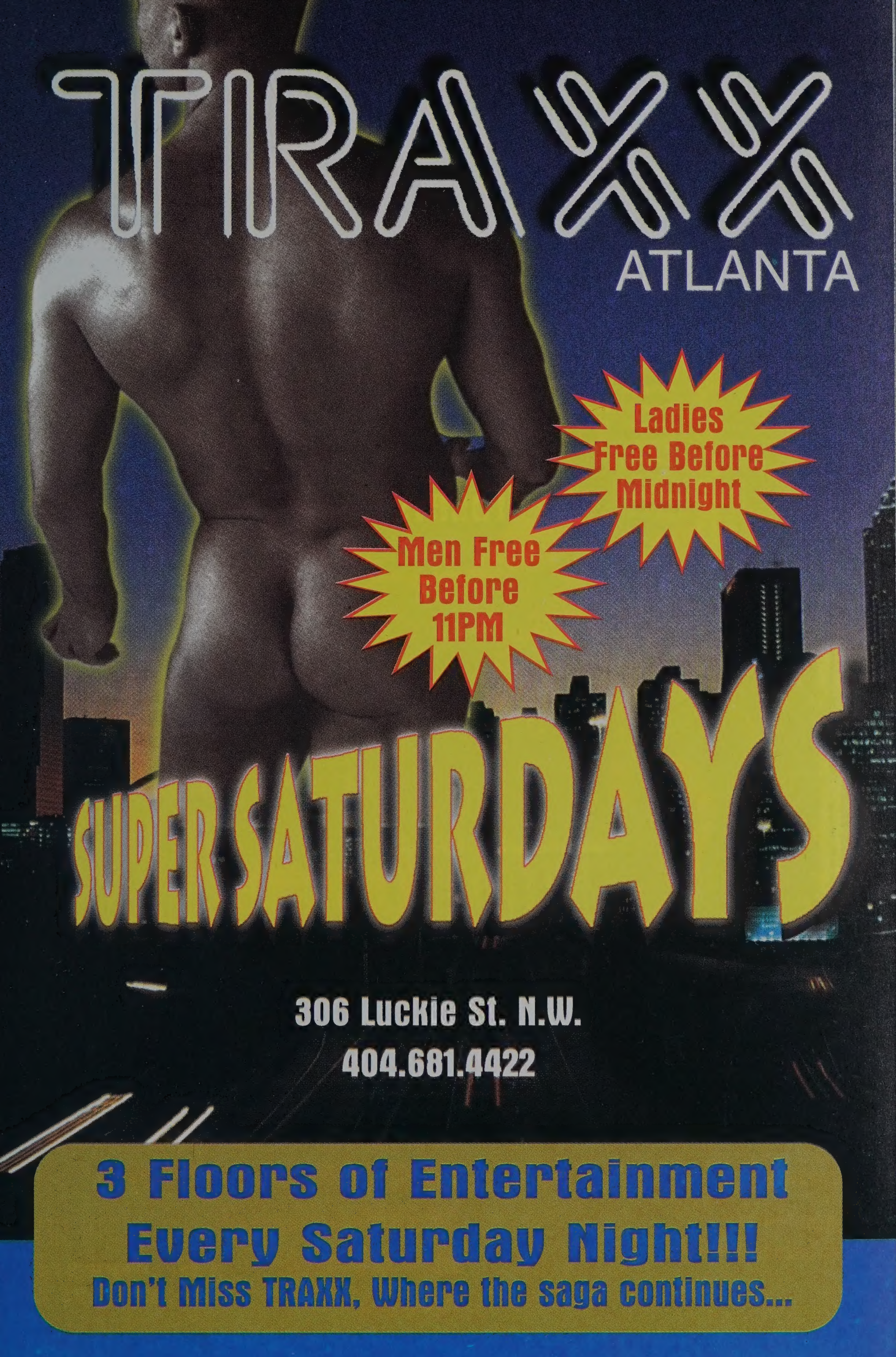

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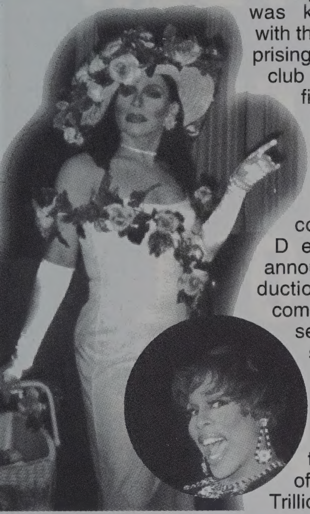
What do you get when you put a latino boy in some Mac makeup, a Patricia Feilds wig, a Christian La Croix evening gown, sportswear by Donna Karan and then she performs like her name is Alicia Kelly? The new Ms Rascals, Trillions Devereaux.



The 1998-99 Mr. And Ms. Rascals pageant though extremely controversial was keenly contested with the black horse surprising the jam packed club and snatching her first title. From a field of pageant veterans which included the likes of Tijuana Brooks and Kavier, new comer Trillions Devereaux announced in her introduction that she had come to declare herself a diva and that, she surely did.

Having completely demolished the rest of the competition in off stage interview, Trillions was a shoe in for a title, that most felt had the name Tijuana Brooks written all over it. Trillions presented herself like you have never seen her and shocked the judges into giving her perfect scores for most of the night.

Don't think that her winning was easy as it was no small feat. The scores were very close and Kavier and Tijuana both presented themselves like the tiara was already theirs. Tijuana had a show stopping talent number doing the Spanish -English mix of Toni Braxtons "unbreak my heart", complete with dancers and major stage props and set design. In the sportswear category she again slayed the kids with a million dollar head to toe look that was just amazing. So why didn't she win one may wonder? Well the other girls looked exceptional as well and the pageant was heavily weighted on the Interview portion which was won head and shoulders by Trillions Deavereaux with Kavier in a close second.

Despite what you may think about the results, the pageant was a first class show, with all the contestants outdoing themselves and truly entertaining an eager audience. Trillions accepted her victory with such class and finesse which made her look like the true Queen Of The Night.

In the Mr. Rascals contest an even contest was split by judges decision and the winner was declared to be Demetrius Domino with Jacoby Ross placing second by less than 1 percentage points. They were both quality entertainers who will also be competing in the Mr. Universe in Atlanta come Halloween. We wish them the best of luck.

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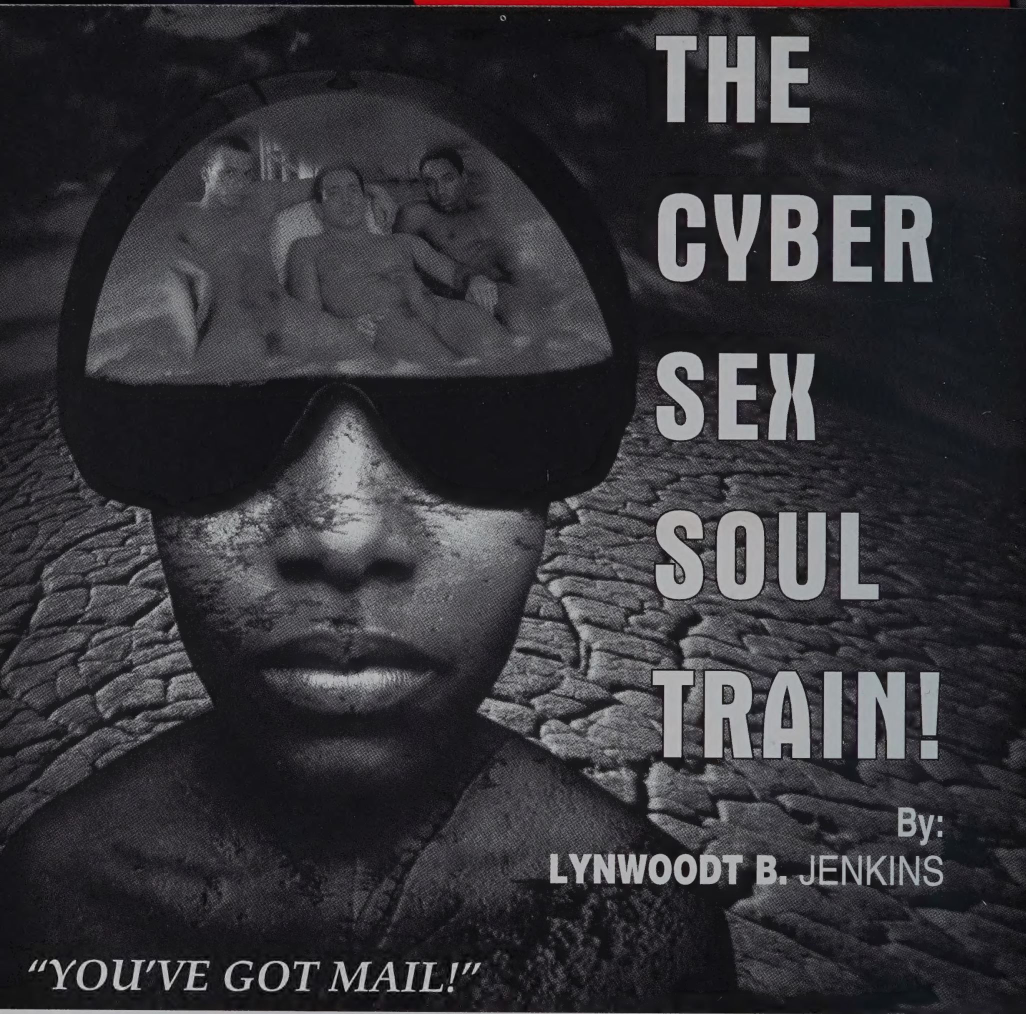

THE CYBER SEX SOUL TRAIN!

By:
LYNWOODT B. JENKINS

"YOU'VE GOT MAIL!"

Sound familiar? Anyone, who's been remotely progressive in the past 10 years either has a computer at home, or works on one in the office. Sometimes both. As we move at cyber speed on the information highway into the technological age, computers have become as common as the flu. Not to mention, viruses to boot. As several companies provide you with Internet access, America On Line seems to be the world's most popular service. Established in 1985 by its founder and CEO, Steve Case, AOL, Inc. reported a fourth quarter net income of $7.1 Million. All of which is attributed to its loyal members. I would imagine a large percentage of those members are gay men logging on. The process is simple. After you've entered your screen name and password, you hear an irritating, but brief series of static and beeps. Then suddenly, you're connected! You're literally propelled into a world where almost everything is at your finger tips. If you sign on to retrieve information, purchase a book, to make travel arrangements, or just to check mail, then you might find it exciting to receive that robotic sounding declaration of waiting messages.

However, most times, it's a ploy. Yes, mail maybe waiting to be opened and read, but usually, we use it as an excuse, then zoom! We're in a steamy chat room, reading explicit profiles, or downloading pornographic images.

From married men, through men in the closet, to proud gay men, brothers are looking for sex! One thing for certain is that sex is on everyone's mind. It's the number one marketing tool for advertisers across the board. It's used to negotiate deals, consummate relationships, and even as a form of apology. Either way, sex is at the top of the list. So, whether your pointing and clicking your way into orgasmic fits, or just feel like an adventure, get your ticket and log onto the cyber sex soul train, the hippist trip in America!

Sigmund Frued, (whom I think may have been the most dysfunctional), would probably say that it is a healthy outlet for the duality in human nature. Unlike Clark Kent and his spandex wearing Superman other-self, one is given the opportunity to explore the more devilish side of his personality. Or, dare I say... their true identity. With screen names ranging between "Tapdisazz," "Rufftrade," and "Freak4U" it wouldn't take Frued, or a rocket scientist to figure out what's being advertised. Least of all, what they're currently in the market to obtain. If, however, you're still confused, or just want to find out physical statistics or "stats" as we like to call them, then you can read a personalized profile. Some profiles will entertain you. Others will leave you wondering if the person is actually psychotic. While, most will specify "no fats, fems, drugs or smokers." In other words, if you're an over-weight flaming queen who smokes crack and then chain smokes cigarettes, then you're definitely not the most popular boy at the party.

Though, I've never actually met a man off-line, with hopes of friendship, sex, or otherwise, I have heard about the experiences. Apparently, few have been pleasant, and most are a litany of horror stories. One scenario that seems to be repeated is the brother who shows up completely opposite of how he described himself. These are they who have stretched the truth so far that you need a map to get to it. I personally don't understand the logic behind agreeing to meet someone, then showing up not all the person you described, but that's just me.

According to the men I've questioned and/or chatted with, most agree that we fall into sex, I mean, six basic categories. The first category is the liars (see the above). Then, there is a second group of men who are aptly titled, "anxious attics." These are the brothers who's desperation for immediate sexual gratification includes, asking if they can come over at 2:00AM for a booty call. Now, I know sometimes you might "feel it," and I'm not trying to judge, but doesn't that sound a little suspicious? I mean, if you're willing to give it up that quickly, regardless of what it is you're giving up, doesn't alarms go off in your head? I mean the one on your shoulders! I know for some of us, it's no different than meeting someone in the club and taking them home, or even clocking in that third shift at Piedmont or Grant Park, but you have to ask yourself, is it all worth it? From what I understand, the answer is a resounding, YES! Regardless of how bad it sounds, or what it may imply, the desire to have sex, whenever, wherever, and however, is a reality in which few will admit, but many would be willing to participate.

Third in our category of cyber sex soul brothers would include, " on the DL" men. Translated to mean, "Down Low." These brothers are either married; have a girlfriend, have a boyfriend, has issues with his own sexuality, or worse yet, is faking the funk, wanting you to believe that he is a rough neck looking to find the right brother to bring him out, so to speak. Which would also make this brother a member of first category.

The most endearing are the "Sincere" fourth category of brothers. These men are usually those who are genuine about finding and meeting a potential friend or mate. Their screen names are respectable. They refrain from cyber and/or phone sex, and their profiles commonly include phrases like, "Seeking a long-term relationship."

Of course, there's always the fifth category of brave souls who belong in the "Pulpit On Line." They are brothers, and sometimes sisters, who feel obligated to quote scriptures and preach the gospel to the Homosexual Whore Mongers and Heathens of the world. Suffice it to say they are usually deflected by well-read brothers, and snap queens who shoot and cut away their dogma into oblivion.

Then, finally there are those who just want to have fun, and may not fit into a particular category, but will frequent all of them. These brothers are seemingly the majority. They usually log on from boredom, or even horniness, but the fact remains, they're just out to kill time. Their most interesting quality is that, they're usually former members of the aforementioned categories. Unfortunately, they may have had so many bad experiences that they cancelled all late night hook-ups, and/or their search for a love connection. Or maybe, they simply refused to play the cyber sex game from the start.

Who knows? For some, a simple posting, a web page, or a "Instant Message" to a brother on their buddy list is enough to satisfy them. Needless to say the rest of us are still out there in cyber space. See you on line!

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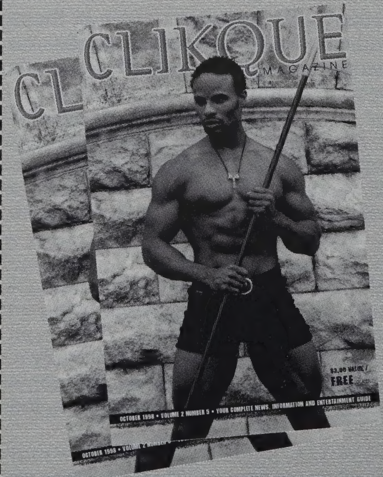
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Continued: **CHANGING OF THE GUARDS** *from page 11*

change came about. An undisclosed source speculates that "maybe" the Fusion owners and staff members were not particularly enchanted by Mr. Carter's reportedly "lack of people skills". A crucial element that is necessary in order to survive in this type of business. The same source speculates that "maybe" management was displeased with the drop in numbers during the past few weeks. Also, the undiisclosed source speculates that "maybe" Mr. Carter got too comfortable and did not find the need to change-up or advertise his weekly line-up. It is our impression that Art Mann, GM at Fusion wants a new, fresh group of individuals to take Fusion to a new level. A level that he feels only Black Gay Men Together can elevate it to.

Giving Back To The Community?

As Explained to me, Black Gay Men Together is an organization comprised to six young men. They are Reginald Thomas, Martin Little, Leondra Robinson, and Darroe Johnson from Atlanta, Kirt Robinson and Eric hunt from Washington DC. "We are very excited " said Reggie, "many of us are from Atlanta and have been a part of the black gay community for many years and have been a part of the Fusion Fridays since it's birth. Finally we have the freedom to take it to a new and exciting direction and make it bigger and better than ever!" Black Gay Men Together hopes to use this opportunity to bring many facets of black gay culture and expressions to the forefront here in Atlanta, America's most richly populated black gay market. The complete aim and purpose of BGMT is driven by the current success of Fusion Fridays and their desire to expand and offer first class social options to the community. A major goal the organization is setting for itself is the formation of a coalitions of club owners and promoters that will band together and sponsor activities and functions in an attempt to raise money to donate to various organizations such as ITLA, Inc., AID Atlanta and other organization in need of assistance.

So often we see promoters and club owners smile at the long lines of patrons waiting to strut their stuff, drink and strut some more. Rearly do you hear of them giving back to those that have supported and continue to support them night after night, week after week all year long. This form of giving is one that is usually found in the white gay community, and I find it particularly encouraging to see a group of black gay men willling go lend a helping hand.

Continued: **SUPER HEREOS** *from page 13*

Mrs. Greenburg listened attentively and replied, "What we consider high risk behavior, or that which would fall into the high risk category would include; homosexual sex, blood transfusion, IV drug users, a cardiovascular disease, and even some health care workers who think they may gotten needle pricks while on duty."

Though, I understood their precaution, it still wasn't good enough. As I was about to fire my next load of questions, I was transferred again. "Hello. Blood services." The soft female voice answered. Angered, I hung up. Then, having taken three deep breaths, I called back and spoke with Sarah who echoed Greenburg, but added. "Others in the high risk category are persons born in Central Africa. There's a new strand of HIV there, and we don't have the proper testing materials for it yet." Sarah concluded.

Finally, I called the CDC. I prepared for the usual transfers when a doctor who chose to remain anonymous, volunteered the information I was seeking. "Yes." He said. "We test all blood for the anti-body, but the window period of thirty days to develop the test wouldn't pick it up. That window period is when blood is considered the zero convert factor. Inevitably, it means there's a fraction of a chance that you can get the virus. Besides, the FDA ruled that if your lifestyle puts you at risk, then we can't accept your donation. I apologize for the embarrassment, and any inconvenience."

"Thank you!" I said. Someone had given me a more scientific answer. All along, I knew that they were protecting innocent lives, but would've it have been easier to explain the zero convert factor in the first place? Instead, I got, "Sorry, you're gay, and we can't use your blood! You want some cookies?"
Although, I was unable to save that particular day at the blood drive, my faith in super heroes was renewed with the anonymous doctor. In a way, he saved me. It was something I'll never forget. Just like I'll never forget that Mr. Martinez is the reason why I still get goose bumps when calculating a math equation.

ASK Bianca

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,1200 Mckinney St. Suite # 411-101, Houston Texas 77010.
Or email her C/o Clikquem@aol.com

Hello Kids,

I am so pleased to be back from our month long vacation which was splendid. Killer must have gotten a job as a flight attendant because he has been flying all over the globe lately. Chicago, St Louis and Baltimore, seem to be the route he his holding these days, but good for him. I am enjoying my new found freedom and space while he has been away and I have started knitting his Christmas sweater since they always come home to where they belong. I am looking forward to the holidays as this is the time of the year I get to tell the family just how good things are with me, since that is the only time I see them and they live for my stories which I really have to thank you for. This year I think I will just give them all copies of my column in Clikque and skip my annual report. Enough of me and my sordid life, lets' get on to the business at hand. This months letters were just as I expected, man problems and Monica Lewinsky in every body's business. A message to that Girl. While I can share killer with them other hoes, if you put your mouth on killers piece, I am going to cut you because my name is not Hillary! It is Bianca!!
Love and Penis, Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I have recently found out that my boyfriend of seven years has been having an affair with a friend of ours for the past year and I am going to leave his ass. As soon as I can find a place to live I am out of here. I am sick of his shit and his playing me like this. He pays the bills , does the laundry sometimes, cooks and the sex is good, but why did he have to do this to me. I hate him and I am outa here. That no good son of a bitch is going to miss me and pay dearly for what he has done to me.
No one treats Josephina like shit and gets away with it.

Dear Josephina,

I know that is not your name but that is okay. Sounds to me like you are the one who is going to miss him and I don't see from your letter where he has treated you like shit. Sounds like you have a good man to me and you are the sorry one. The sex is good and he pays your bills, now heifer, what else on earth do you want from this man. Good dick and my bills are payed and me and killer are together forever. If he cheated for a year and you could not tell, act like you still don't know, or go find the man and your friend, Beat them both and then take your man home. If that does not work, ask this wonderful man of yours if he has time for a third girl, I am free on weekends as killer is usually out of town. Sorry to disappoint you!
Love Bianca.

Dear Bianca,

I have a terrible obsession with straight men or those whom I cannot tell if they are gay or not. I live in New York and I meet these men on the train, around the corner from my job , by my house and just about anywhere I go. My problem is this. They allow me to spend money on them, we sometimes hug and they act like real gentlemen when we go out, but we never have sex and a relationship, a gay relationship never ensues. What are these men up to and how do I find out if they are gay or get them to come out.
Love sick in New York.

Dear Lovesick in NY,

Girl, how are you, I know exactly who you are and your questions baffle me. On one hand, I don't know when straight men started going out to the movies and dinner with men such as yourself, who are obviously gay. And on the other hand how straight are these men if they approach you and it gets to the point where phone numbers are exchanged. I know that the kids in New York will go out with anyone who is paying as whoring in its many forms has become quite common place. My thoughts on the matter is that you are in denial. You don't really want a boyfriend, so you date straight men, because it is safe from commitment and the pressures of sex. I could be wrong but girl, go find you a gay boy and get some dick, sounds like you need it real bad. Love Bianca

Dear Bianca,

What is Andre Mizrahi and Selvin going to do now that the Mizrahi fashion house has closed and gone out of business?
Catorce, NY

Dear Catorce,

This is an advice column not a gossip mill nor the morning paper. Love Andre Mizrahi to death but I am not his secretary. Why don't you ask him this question or have your people call his people. I don't think his house has much to do with Isaacs, but if so, I don't give a damn. This is not what the Bianca column is about and anyone with ideas such as this, address them to the proper people because I am likely to make up a story so you can go gossip, that the Mizrahi Ball House is closing as well and Andre, Selvin and Jack are forming the House of 14th Street or better yet they all became Revlons. What ever! You are real trifling and if space permitted I would have printed your whole letter full of speculations as to what Andre is going to do or should do, Get a Life!!!!
Bianca

Let Bianca Help You With Your Problems.

CLIKASCOPE

Getting Your Month Off To A Great Start

ARIES

Aries- Don't be a fool for love. Fall out of love with the concept and find a deserving person, not the next man who looks at you twice. Love is at your door-step but you are looking into the sky, when the man is standing directly ahead of you.

TAURUS

Taurus- Marry that Cancer man who has been hounding you. He is a really great person with much to offer. He may be a little needy but an absolutely wonderful human being. You are at a peak in your life , share it with someone special.

GEMINI

Gemini- Your split personality is about to merge into one and you will be a happy human being. The summer is gone but your favorite time of the year is coming, so get ready to live and get laid.. I mean paid.

CANCER

Cancer- Your new found independence will take you to greater heights. Your friends will appreciate you for being yourself as you let go of your obsession with that man who could not care less if you breathe. Girlfriend you are too good to be hanging on to a sinking ship. Beauty awaits you so dress to impress this month.

WE'RE RIGHT ON
TARGET....... AREN'T WE?
CLIKQUE MAGAZINE —
GET INTO IT!

LEO

Leo- Stop holding out on that man of yours. He is ready for the commitment but you don't trust him. Everyone needs intimacy so give yourself a chance to be truly blessed by this dream of a man.

VIRGO

Virgo- Keep your eyes on the prize. Stay focused and you will accomplish your goals, including snatching that piece of trade. You will be one happily dating diva by mid to end of October with the light at the end

LIBRA

Libra- The caring human being that you are needs some tender loving care as well. It is your turn to be pampered and cuddled. So, as Halloween approaches, don't worry, you won't be scared because all your needs will be taken care of by someone real special.

SCORPIO

Scorpio- We know you have a bag full of tricks just waiting for Halloween to come, but my dear, the sweet you will win this year and you will be doing nothing but treating. Your kindness is about to be rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS

Sagitaurius- It is a new beginning for you, so shine. The closet has been cleared of its skeletons and even those who have known you forever, are amazed at the new you. Your bountiful supply of men is about to increase further so get ready to live.

CAPRICORN

Capricorn- The good you has exploded as the heat is dying down and things are getting cooler. The sexual tiger in you has been let loose so you will find yourself just wanting more. Your mate will be happy as he has always been wanting more.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius- Love is still getting stronger for you and yours. You have weathered the storms and the next few months will be sheer bliss. Don't get too complacent though, as caring is an ongoing action.

PISCES

Pisces- Despite your need for variety you must admit that there is something about commitment that you enjoy. Your day is coming soon when you will be on top of the world and feel like it. A love relationship grows stronger.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WED
www.brotha.com/clikquem/
GET INTO IT!

Lil The Poet's Corner

CLUB DYNAMICS

Damone M. Burchette

Weeping as they enter the door, the walls take them in with a warm embrace, loving.......

Relaxing, smiling, warm, and bright; centered on the same skin-same body-same kind, mirrors all around.

The music starts, the doors open, and the cycle continues...The Music gets louder, the Holy Ghost comes; weep no more. Possessed by the music, elevated to a higher place; cymbals clash in ears.

They begin to scream and shout and are transformed into freed slaves all over again.

Touching starts, shirts are being removed; Africa comes home.......

Communion is given every night, for those that thirst after righteousness sake; for they are filled. Purifying their vocal chords for the praise and worship; as they weep through their feet, as they dance all night long.

The ancestor's arrive, and the lessons begin, love Spirit will all your mind, body, and soul and your brethren as yourself.

The elders retreat to the High Tower, with its smoothing melodies and soothing beats, the chains are removed.......

As the weeping has stopped, and the light has arrived; Africa rejoices, for Her children are free.

This is club dynamics to me.

BLESSINGS

Anonymous

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm sounds each morning...
Thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are those who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible...
Thank you, Lord, that I can see. There are many who are blind.

Even though the first hour of my day is hard, when socks are lost, toast is burned, attitudes rising... Thank you, Lord for my family.

Even though the routine of my job is the same...
Thank you, Lord for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no jobs.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day, and wish my circumstances were not quite so modest... Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.

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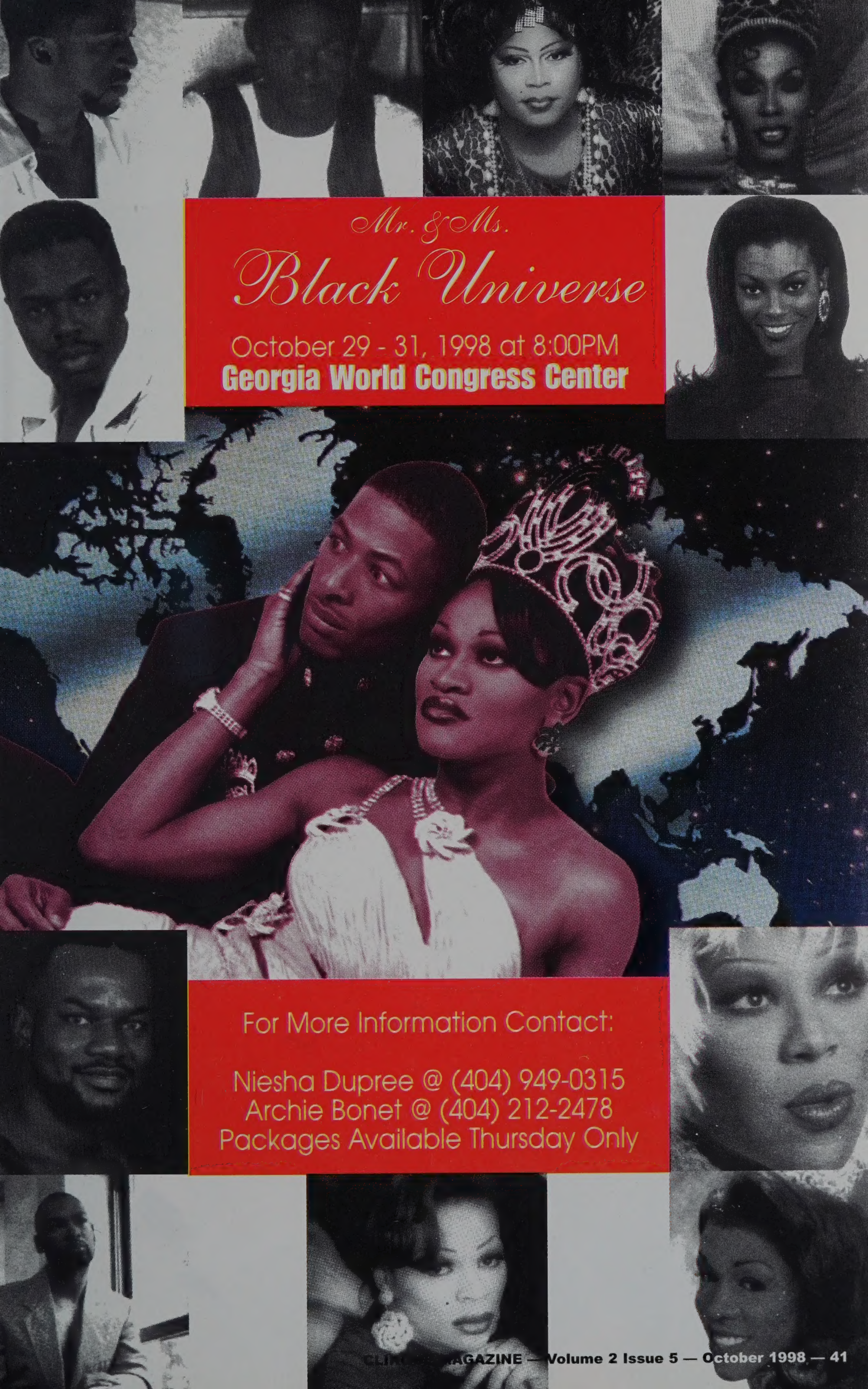

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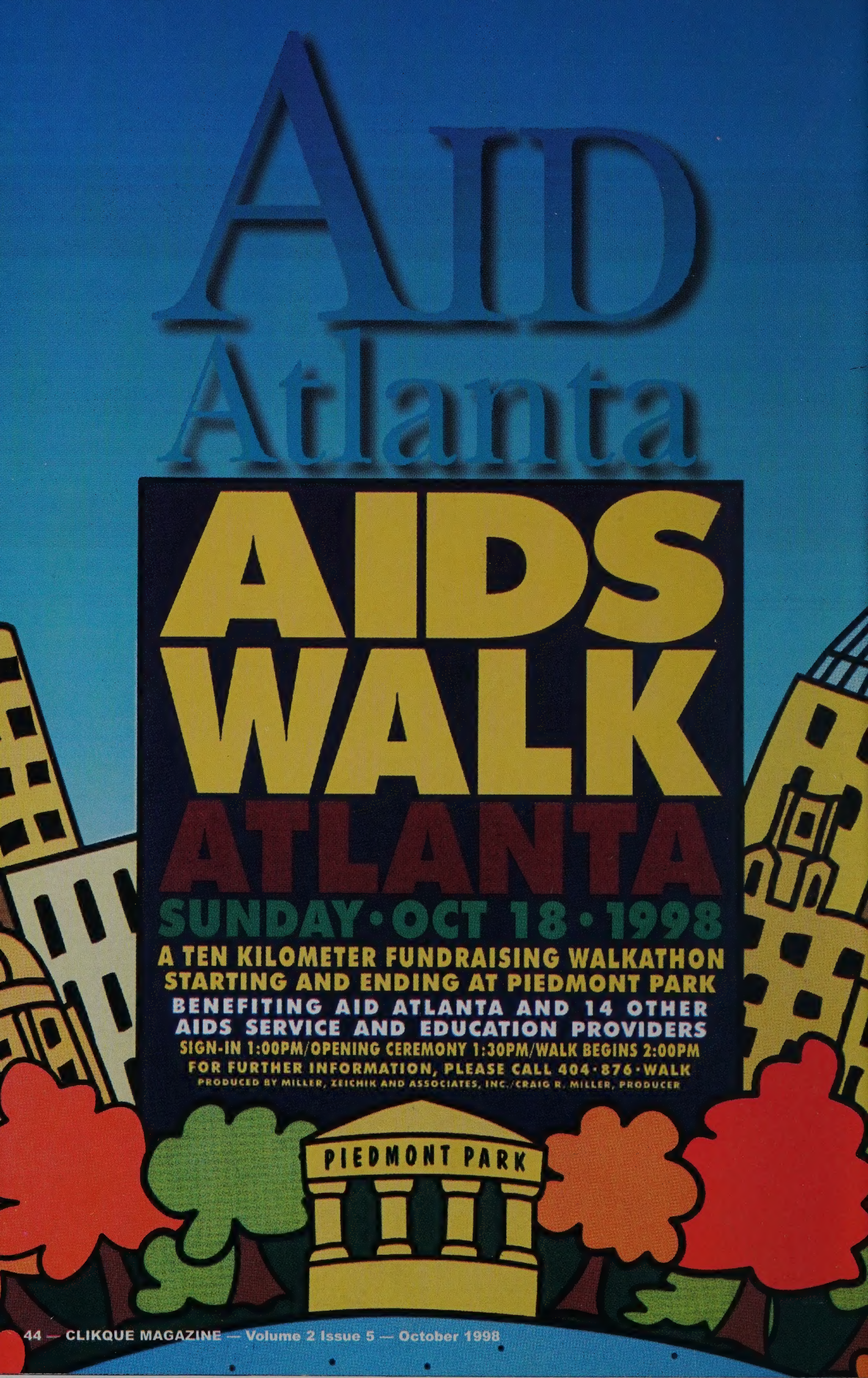

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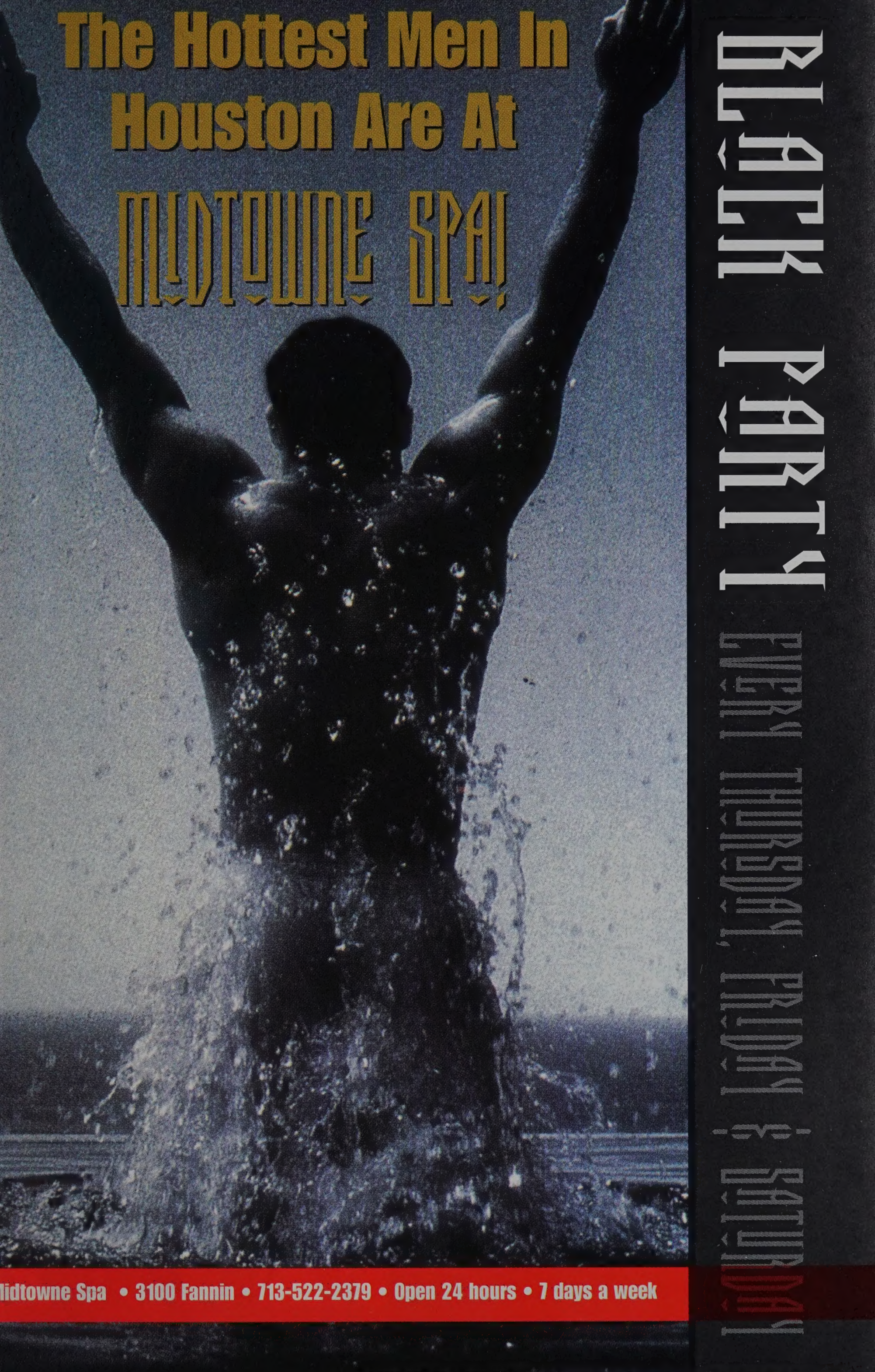
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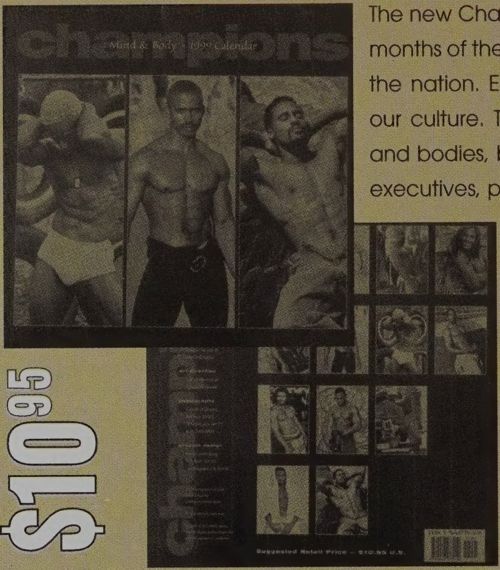
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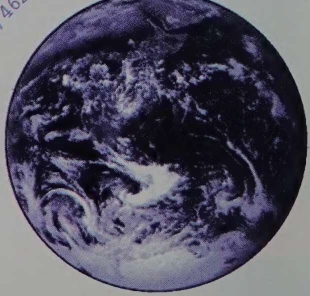

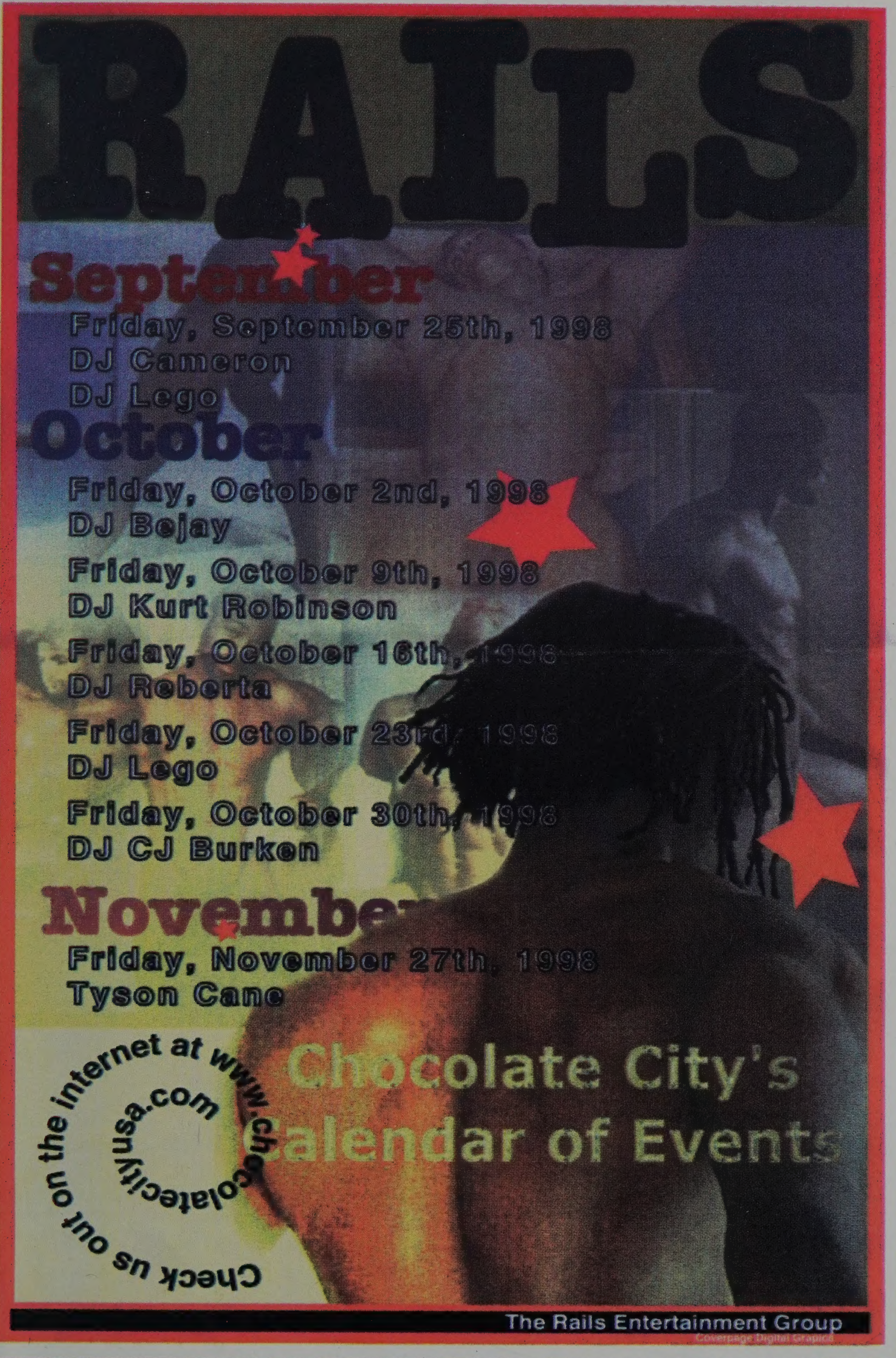

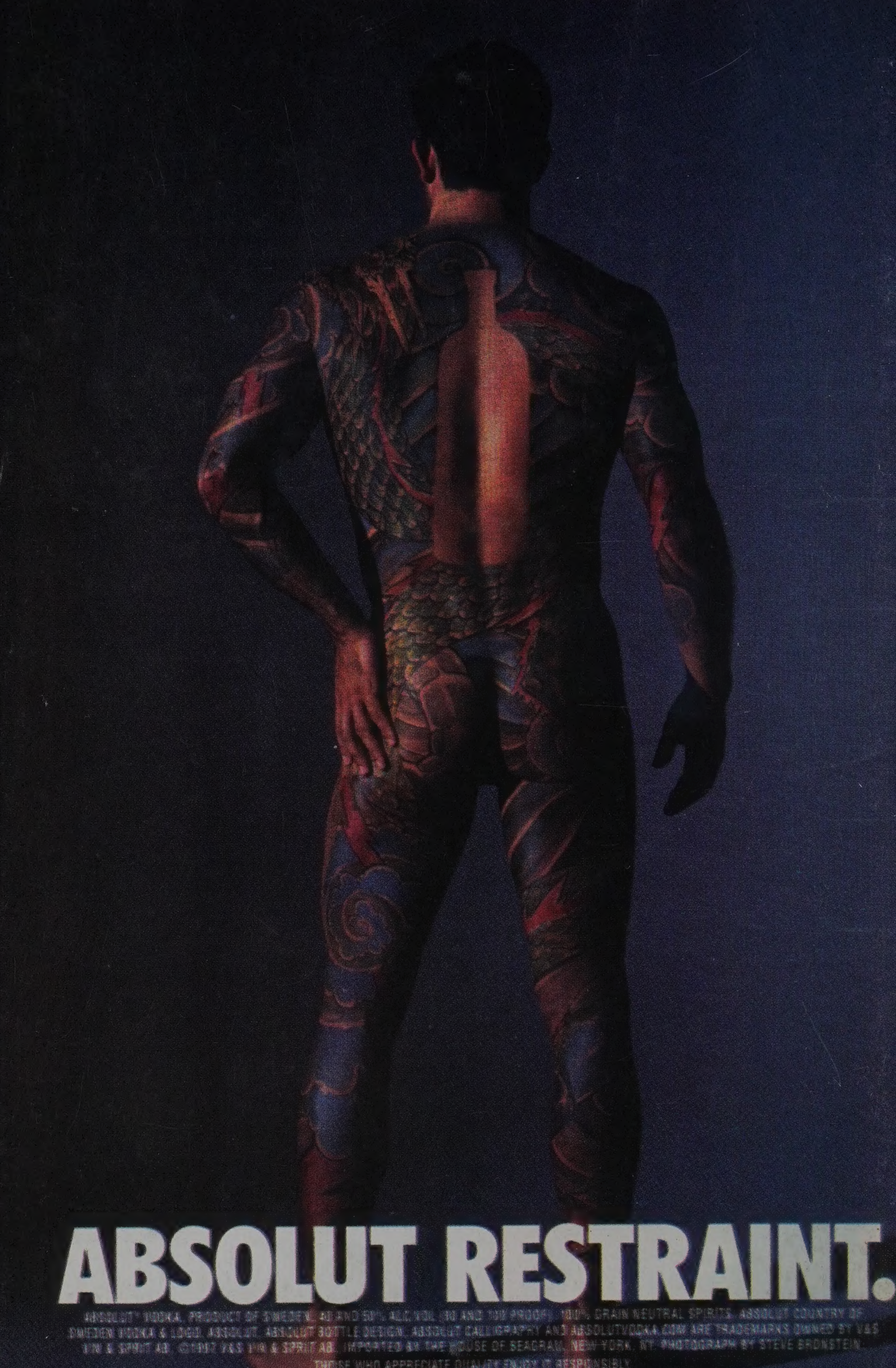
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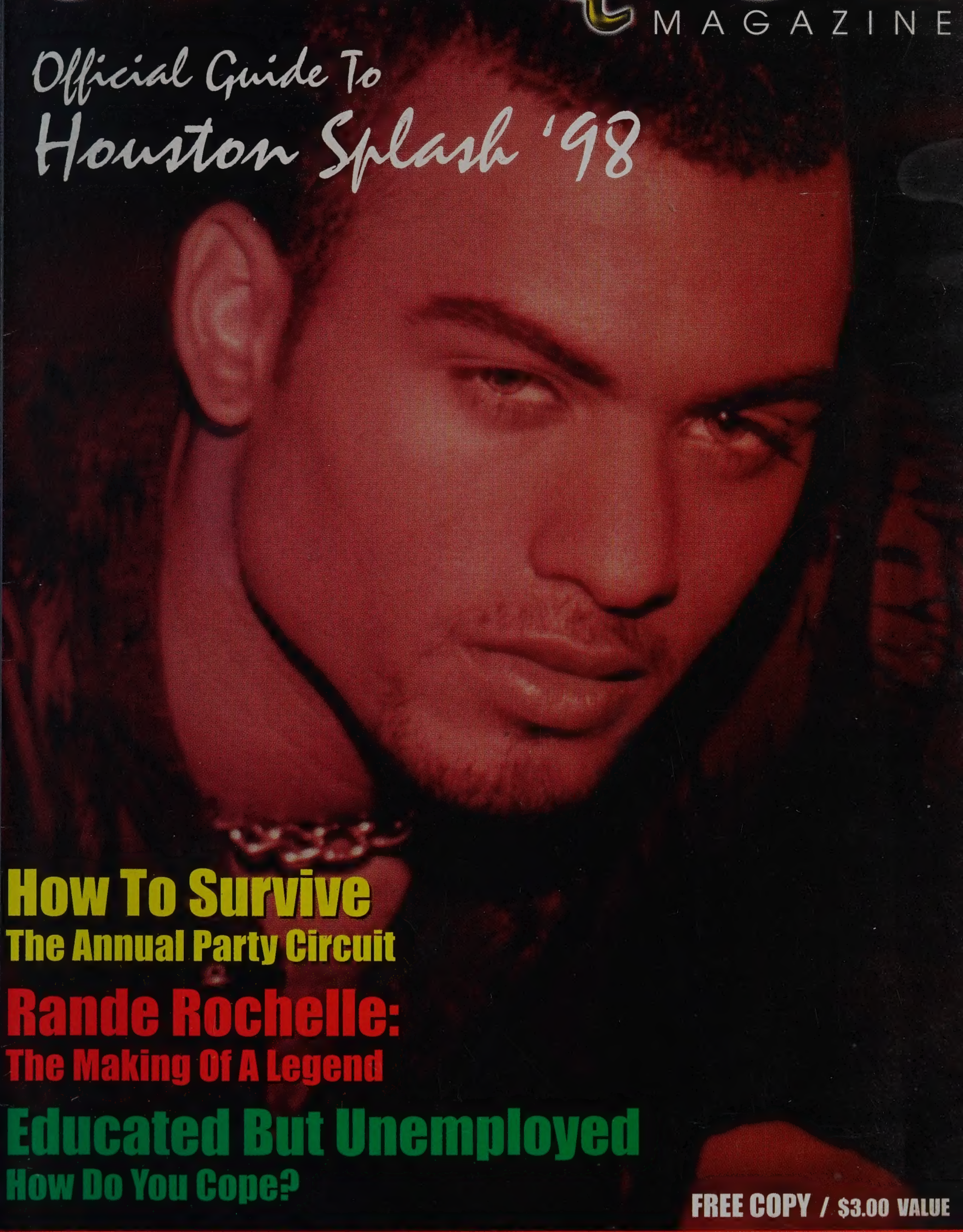

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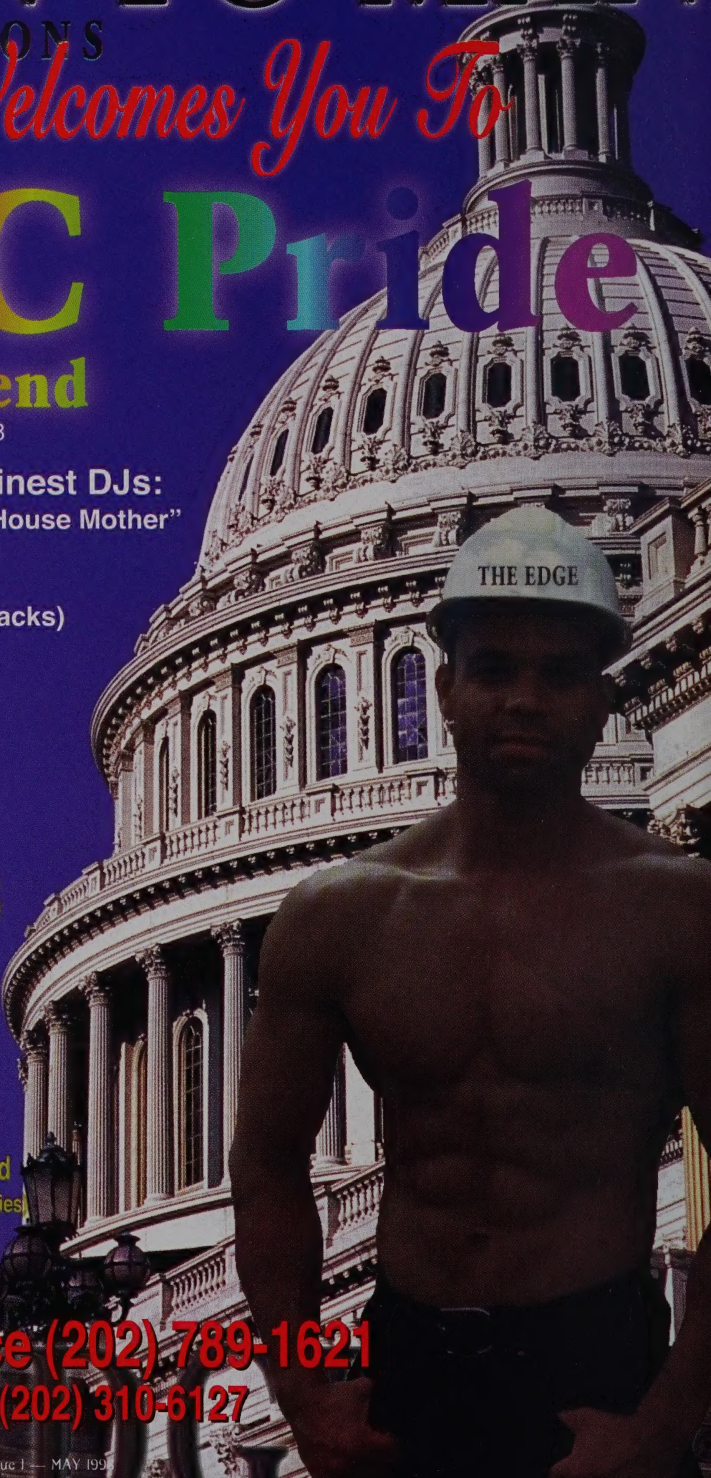

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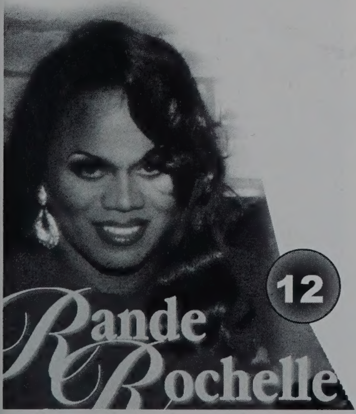

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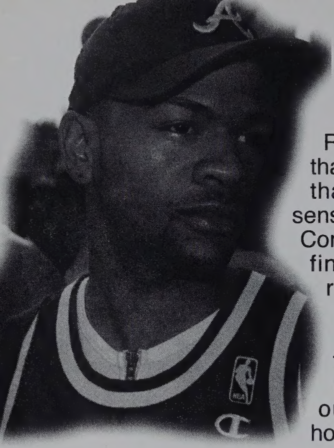
Houston Splash '98

Cover photo by **Exposure Prints By Tio**
Model **Taylor Mabrie**



From The Desk of:
LEWIS NICHOLSON
Editor-In-Chief

Rhetorician Kenneth Burke, says that all of human life is drama and that we all have an ever present sense of guilt and a need to purge. Confined within these pages you will find a lot of purging and guilt redemption theories at work. Playwrite George C. Wolfe said that, all we own is our work and that, no one can deny us. We at Clikque are pleased to present our premier issue for 1998 and hope that you will find it informative , persuasive and stimulating. The stage is set and here are the stars of this drama. We hope you find their stories intriguing and inspiring as well as meaningful.

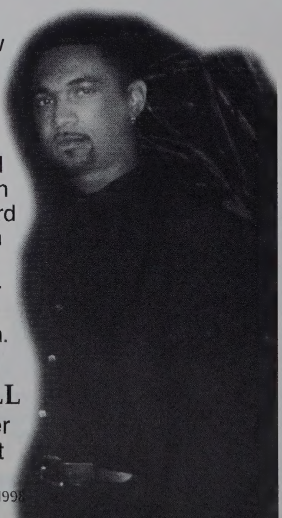
Thus far, this has truly been a tremendous 1998 for us here at Clikque. Producing a work of art, such as this is no small feat and I must commend my partner and Chief Operating Officer, Dwight Powell, on doing an excellent job. Had it not been for his resilience this project would not have been completed.

So here is yet another edition of Clikque, with its new look and many colorful pages.In this the year of Mergers and Alliances we are happy to announce the partnership of Desktop Graphic Technology and Clikque Magazine to form the New Clikque Magazine. Like the mergers between Chase Manhattan and Texas Commerce banks, Continental Airlines and Northwest, Clikque and Desktop Graphic plans to unite the north and the south in much the same manner producing the same results. A bigger, better and more capable means of serving your needs.

Our advertisers deserve special commendation for believing in us and the product we have created.Without them, we would not be here today and we are happy to be at their service.

If you are new to Clikque we welcome you and trust that you will be as intrigued as our current readers. Our mission is to inform, educate and entertain our community through a classy quality medium.

As the circuit party season has now officially began with Houston Splash we hope to be able to keep you fully informed about the happenings in the various cities. Washington DC is next on Memorial weekend, followed by New York in June and LA, then Atlanta in September. We look forward to a long and lasting relationship with you and hope to serve you even better in the coming year. Clikque magazine welcomes your ideas and opinions and hopes to hear from you soon.



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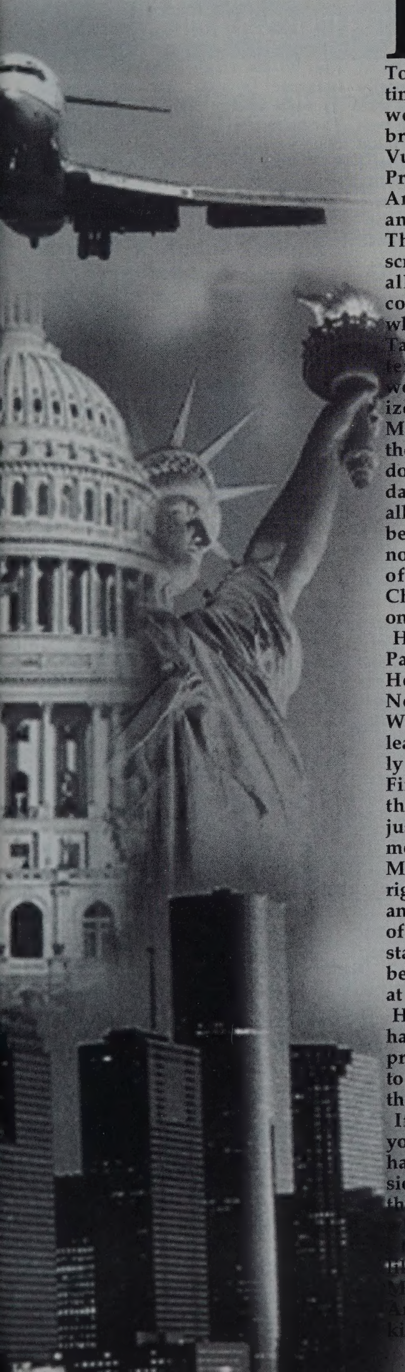
Surviving *The Circuit*

By:
Lewis Nicholson



It is circuit party time and we have all had a grueling six months at the gym in preparation for the upcoming events. Too bad we didn't spend that much time with our therapists, so that we would be able to take along our brains for the ride. So, the Louis Vuitton luggage is packed, with the Prada and Versace belts, the Armani t-shirts the Klein draws and of course, the Gucci pumps. The nails manicured, the feet scrubbed and we have splashed on all the Izzy Myake cologne we could pick up at Saks fifth. So what do we do now?

Take it from a circuit whore and listen carefully. After all that hard work we want you to feel actualized, as in the concept coined by Maslow in his Hierarchy of needs, the ultimate in self fulfillment. We do not want you at the end of labor day week end to feel as if though all that time and money was wasted because now you feel like a cheap novel which has been read, jacked off on, and tossed in the trash. Chances are you are trash but no one has to know that.

Here are some tips to survive the Party Circuit which starts in Houston at Splash and goes Northeast to DC and New York, West to LA and ends up in Atlanta leaving you whored out, and totally drained .

First, learn to act like the model that you are. Isaac Mizrahi may just be watching you make his garment look like something from K-Mart. Make sure the make up is right for that bright airport lighting and remember that for the duration of your stay, you will always be on stage, so work it. You are a star so be a part of the galaxy that appears at these events.

Have an ample supply of condoms handy because these things can get pretty wild. My advice however is to play hard to get and go home just the way you came, alone.

If you happen to be there with your significant other make sure to have that, oh so important discussion before hand so as not to spend the entire weekend arguing about who is acting more like a slut. Chances are, you both are acting like the most recent winner of the Miss Town Whore Pageant. Another alternative is to have the kids together, as in a three or foursome.

On to the crux of the matter here. You have finally had that lyposuction and your body is fab. Abs of steel, and the booty of doom with all the right outfits and degrees of nakedness. Everyone is looking at you and you feel pretty. What do you do? Choose one boy that you like and marry him for the weekend. Promise to write. No phone calls please. Long distance calls are a waste of money and trust me on this one, in exactly one month and your first phone bill you will be ready to call it quits. By now you know him enough to know that your neighbor of seven years is really a better catch.

The other principle that you may want to apply is the I am a whore but you are not getting any principle. This methodology utilizes the million dollar smile approach and the I am available for all your pleasures look. Dress simple but nice. Show off your best attributes and take all numbers and room numbers given to you. Walk like you are God's gift to creation and everyone will believe it.. Show off your stuff but go home alone. The fact of the matter is that you cannot possibly do all the boys you find attractive that weekend. At the end of the trip you would have a whole new phone list of people to look up if they get famous or make the evening news.

The final approach is the group methodology. In this approach group members are fierce looking and when they grace the runways all eyes are focussed on them including your boyfriend who never cheats. Make sure all members of your group fit the image you have created for yourself as in the very fine Mugler tradition, where all the face kids could be blood siblings of the Legendary Whitney Mugler. You are unapproachable unless the other child is a true star who did not make it in time for auditions for your group. So there you have it, apply any of these principles or make up your own. The point is to have fun, keep your phone bill low when this is all over, make a few friends so you have a place to stay when you do the circuit, and play safe so you will be at the function next year.

HIV/AIDS HEADLINERS

"Reaction Negative to HIV Surveillance"

Atlanta-Journal Constitution Online (04/18/98); McKenna, M. A. J.

Two community meetings held in Georgia last week--a town hall meeting sponsored by the AIDS Survival Project and the state Division of Public Health in Georgia on Friday and a meeting of the Georgia AIDS Task Force--reflected the negative responses by the community concerning the introduction of name reporting for HIV-positive people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advocates the use of name reporting, asserting that the measure allows increased surveillance accuracy. Currently, 31 states confidentially track the names of HIV-infected patients; however, New York, Illinois, California and Georgia--the states with the highest AIDS incidence--do not. At the meetings, participants discussed the use of confidential name records or the use of "unique identifiers,' which record information concerning the patients but does not use their names. Some participants argued that name reporting would deter possibly infected individuals from seeking testing, while others voiced concerns about the possibility of lost confidentiality.

"AIDS Deaths Fall"

Toronto Globe and Mail P. A1; Mitchell, Alanna; Campbell, Murray

HIV-related deaths in Canada dropped 26 percent in 1996 and may have dropped as much as two-thirds in 1997 as compared to peak numbers in 1995, according to a report released by Statistics Canada. The number of AIDS deaths dropped by over 450 to 1,306 in 1996 from the year before. British Columbia reported separately that its AIDS mortality decline may be even greater, with preliminary figures indicating a 56 percent drop in deaths for 1997. Preliminary figures from Quebec show a 50 percent decline, with 125 deaths in the first half of 1997 compared to 250 in the same period of 1996. The decline in mortality has been attributed to the advent of new drug therapies, including the use of protease inhibitors. AIDS activists warn that the disease is still not eliminated and that the drugs, which are expensive, are not available to everybody. The Canadian AIDS Society estimates that some 42,000 Canadians are infected with HIV.

"U.N. Promotes Female Condom Against AIDS in Africa"

Fox News Online

The United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS reports that conferences will be held this week in South Africa to increase the use of female condoms in 15 African nations. The meetings are part of an effort to decrease the spread of HIV. A study sponsored by UNAIDS in Thailand last year showed that sexually transmitted disease dropped by 34 percent and unprotected sex fell by 25 percent among sex workers when female condoms were made available to them. The agency noted that this year, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe have seen substantial sales of the condom, which is manufactured by Female Health Company of Chicago, Illinois.

"GOP Balks at Idea of Lifting Ban on Needle Funding: Conservatives Threaten Bills to Prevent White House Action"

San Francisco Chronicle Online (04/18/98) P. A3; Freedberg, Louis

Republicans voiced concern on Friday over the lifting of the 10-year ban on the use of federal funds for needle-exchange programs. Sen. Paul Coverdell (R.-Ga.) threatened to introduce legislation that would prevent Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala from allocating funds for the programs, noting in a letter to President Clinton that he finds "it difficult to comprehend how we can ask other nations to help us in our fight against drugs] when at home we are handing out free needles in our neighborhoods to drug addicts." Other critics, who include Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson, drug czar Gen. Barry McCaffrey, and former drug czar William Bennett, claim that the programs send mixed messages concerning drug use. In a counteractive move, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and four other mayors sent a letter to Shalala asking her to allow local governments to decide if existing federal funds for HIV prevention could be used to support the programs. Nationwide, there are about 100 community-run needle-exchange programs already in existence.

"Men's Priorities Affect Contraceptive Choice"

Fox News Online (04/16/98)

According to a study by Renata Forste and Julie Morgan of Brigham Young University in Utah, priority factors significantly affect contraceptive method choices among men. Men concerned about contracting sexually transmitted diseases were found to be more likely to use contraception designed to prevent STDs, while men worried about pregnancy used contraceptives with a greater birth control ability. The study involving 1,595 men found that 79 percent reported STD prevention as very important in contraceptive choice, while 89 percent of men were concerned with a contraceptive's ability to prevent pregnancy or sic
effects in their partner. About one-thir
of those surveyed reported engaging
four to six risky behaviors, with a
increase in risk associated with
decrease in concern for STD infectio
The researchers also found that men wh
believe contraception is their responsib
ity or shared sponsibility were more lik
ly to protect against STDs.

"Defect in HIV Nef Gene Ma Explain Absence of Disease Progression"

Reuters Health Information Services

Researchers report in the May issue
the Journal of Virology that defects in t
HIV nef gene may prevent disease pr
gression in some HIV-infected patien
Dr. Arrigo Benedetto of Spallanza
Institute-IRCCS in Rome and colleagu
analyzed the case of long-term non-pr
gressor and found that the patie
showed deletions in the nef-alone ar
the nef/U3 overlapping regions. T
patient, who has been HIV seropositi
for 13 years, showed CD4 T cell coun
greater than 1000 cells/microliter and
absence of HIV-1 RNA in the peripher
mononuclear cells. The researchers su
gest that a nef defect may be sufficient
determining non-progressive conditio
in some HIV-infected individuals.

"Flow Cytometry Offers Hop for Better Treatment"

AIDS Alert (04/98) Vol.13, No. 4, P. 44

Bruce Patterson, a molecular virologi
and assistant professor at Northeaste
University, has designed a technique f
identifying in-cell viral load that m
compliment or supplant traditional pla
ma viral-load testing. Called ultrasens
tive in situ hybridization, the test utiliz
flowcytometry to accurately measu
how many viral particles a cell is produ
ing. With this in-cell viral load techniqu
researchers are able to identify specifica
ly which cells are producing the vir
even in cases where only five to 10 cop
of virus are manufactured per cell. T
test employs antibodies and fluoresce
dyes to locate and tag up to three typ
of cells per test. The technique, whi
also provides CD4 counts, is likely
change the way clinicians approach tre
ment regimens, since viral kinetics va
between cell types and viral producti
changes may now be predicted prior to
viral load increase. Earlier detection
the virus may follow, since the test is n
solely dependent on measuring bloo
Presently, the test is only available f
research purposes, but mass producti
of the tests is expected to commen
soon in the United States.

DIDYOUKNOW?

DO YOU KNOW THE LAW THAT GOVERNS YOUR STATE?

States in which all anal/oral sex (regardless of gender) is illegal

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah & Virginia

States that criminalize anal/oral sex only between partner of the same gender.

Arkansas, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas

States that have no statute regarding sodomy:

Alaska, California, Connecticute, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakotam Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming

States that have antidiscrimination laws based on sexual orientation:

California, Colorado (on;y covers public employment), Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Wisconsin

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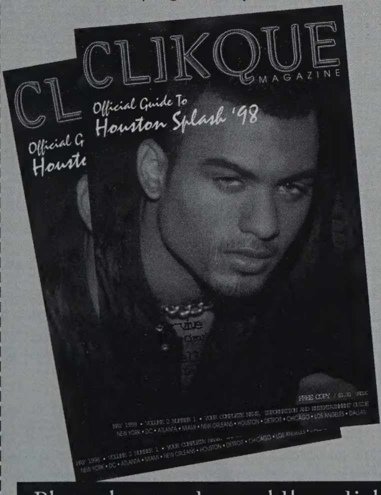
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Official Guide To
Houston Splash '98
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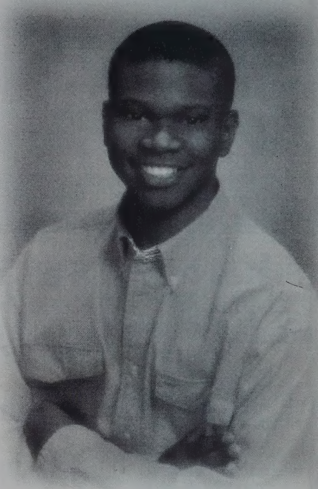
Awakening

Black, Educated, Out, and Unemployed

How do you cope?



As a twenty-two year old black male about to graduate, I am looking forward to working and earning a living.

I've done my time in school for now, but eventually I plan to pursue graduate school. My resume is impressive, I'm articulate, and for the first time in my life, I look forward to living my life as a gay professional.

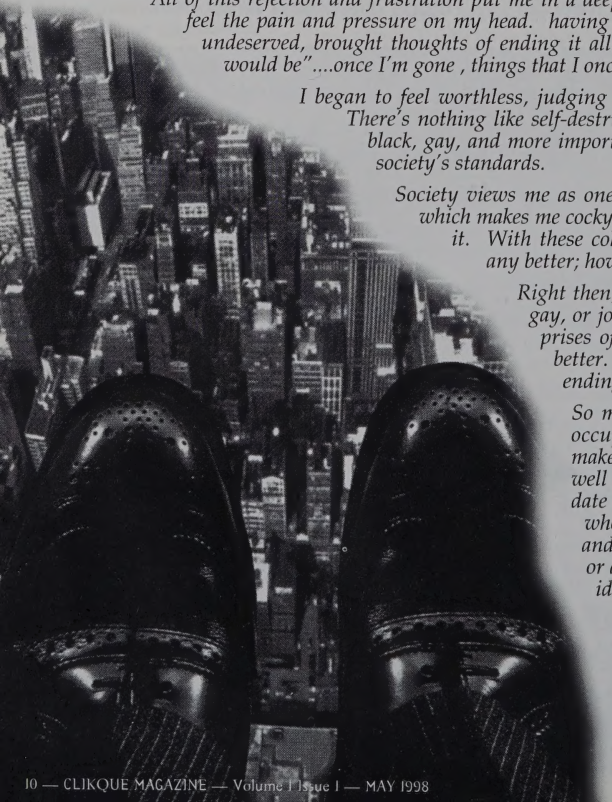
Like so many others in this situation, I imagined a wonderful life. With a college degree almost in hand, I felt the world was mine for the taking. Hey, I had the magical piece of paper that would open all doors to me.

So to prepare myself for the transition into the job market, I began interviewing with reputable companies; companies that would afford me the opportunity to continue my academic and professional development. After the interviews, I received positive feedback from the companies, and on most occasions, was invited back for a second interview.

My excitement escalated as I waited to hear from these companies. I thought my only problem would be decidin which offer to accept. Wrong! As a matter of fact, to date, I don't have one offer, nor do I have an explanation as t why. Surely, after having 15 interviews and more than five site visits, I'd get at least one job offer.

Well, after plan "A" failed, I moved on to plan "B." Plan "B" consisted of my networking and calling people in hig places who I thought could help me with my job search. Wrong again! No one was able to help.

Disillusioned, suddenly my opinion of Corporate America began to change. I realized that Corporate America wa full of bull-shit, and I was getting my share.



All of this rejection and frustration put me in a deep depression. A depression so thick until I coul feel the pain and pressure on my head. having to deal with circumstances I deemed unfair, an undeserved, brought thoughts of ending it all to my mind. I thought to myself, "how easy would be"....once I'm gone , things that I once thought urgent and important would be bygon

I began to feel worthless, judging my self-worth, and second guessing my belief There's nothing like self-destruction and I felt the need to self-destruct. Bein black, gay, and more importantly jobless, made me feel worthless; at least b society's standards.

Society views me as one to be feared because I'm a black educated ma which makes me cocky (they say). Additionally, I'm gay and open abou it. With these colorful attributes, I didn't perceive things gettin any better; how could they?

Right then, almost miraculously, I realized that being blac gay, or jobless defined me as a person. My existence com prises of more than that. Believing this, I began to fe better. However, let's be realistic, I do need a job, bu ending my life because I don't have on is senseless.

So many of us forget who we are and think it's ou occupations: teacher, accountant, chemist, etc., tha makes us. But those are just skills we've learned to d well and in some instances, master. They do not val date our existence. Then what am I? I am someon who has survived. All of what I want to be in li and ever will be, is with me now. No degree, positio or amount of money validate my self-worth. I'm va idated by survival....I'm still standing!

I no longer perceive my circumstances of bein black, gay, and out, as being a curse. Thes things comprise me....a strong black educate man who happens to be gay. Being unemploye is a temporary setback. Being Black is a honor, and being OUT is PRIDE! Life is sti going to be wonderful.

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 1998

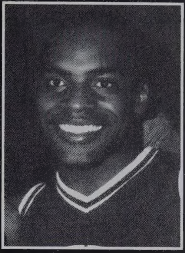
- Harlem United Show House presents Open House: African American Interior Design Showcase to be held June 5, 1998 to July 3, 1998 459 W. 141st St., New York, NY. 718-636-8078. millynneum@aol.com
- Womyn of All Colors and Cultures Together presents Brunch #64 to be held June 7, 1998 Chicago, IL. 773-784-8922.
- Sister SummerFest presents Women of Color Music, Spirit Festival to be held June 12, 1998 to June 14, 1998 Washington, DC. 202-546-5909. imodupe@hotmail.com
- Black Boyz Production presents The Mack: Safer-Sex Party to be held June 19, 1998 at 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. $15. 1919 W. Greenleaf, Chicago, IL. 773-918-5139.
- OBGLTPride Inc. presents First Annual Black Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Pride Celebration to be held June 19, 1998 to June 21, 1998 Oakland, CA. 510- 268-0646, 510-832-0847 fax.
- Gay Men of African Descent presents Seventh Annual Fashion Show to be held June 20, 1998 $20. Twirl, 208 W. 23rd St., New York, NY. 212-414-9344. gmad@aol.com
- Men of All Colors Together/New York presents Annual Sunset Cruise to be held June 23, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. $20. Circle Line Pier 83, W. 42nd St., New York, NY. 212-330-7678.
- National Women's Music Festival presents 24th Annual Festival featuring, among others, Voices of Africa to be held June 25, 1998 to June 28, 1998 Ball State University, Muncie, IN. 317-927-9355. wia@indy.net CA. 888-922-2916. magicmarc@aol.com
- Drive to the Rocks '98 presents 1998 Black Gay Pride Celebration to be held June 28, 1998 Chicago, IL. 773-384-4356.

JULY 1998

- At The Beach presents Opening Reception and Art Exhibit to be held July 1, 1998 to July 5, 1998 Free. Westin Airport Hotel, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB. atbla@aol.com
- At The Beach presents Black Tie Dinner to be held July 2, 1998 $100. Westin Airport Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB. atbla@aol.com
- At The Beach presents BBQ and Beer Bust to be held July 3, 1998 $10. Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB. atbla@aol.com
- At the Beach presents 10th Annual Beach Party: "Underwater Elegance" to be held July 4, 1998 at 7 a.m. to Dusk $10 park, free shuttle. Point Dume Beach, Malibu, CA. 213-969-1619. atbla@aol.com
- At The Beach presents Official After Party to be held July 4, 1998 at 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. $10 with membership or armband. Westin Airport Hotel, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB.
- * At The Beach presents Gay and Lesbian Film Festival to be held July 5, 1998 $10. Westin Airport Hotel, Theater, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB. atbla@aol.com
- Adodi/Chicago presents Summer Retreat to be held July 17, 1998 to July 19, 1998 Detroit, MI. 215-276-2662. adodiphila@aol.com
- National Association of Black and White Men Together presents National Convention: "Rainbow on the Horizon" to be held July 21, 1998 to July 25, 1998 $85-$135. Holiday Inn Galleria on the Beach, Fort Lauderdale, FL. 1-800- NA4BWMT. sfbwmt@aol.com
- Richmond/Ermet Foundation presents Help is on the Way IV: a show benefitting, among others, the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention to be held July 27, 1998 Palace of Fine Arts Theater, San Francisco, CA. 415-356-8100. ntfap@aol.com

GOSSIPING

A Dangerous Habit



Article Submitted By
Shannon Vinson-Linzy
Houston, Texas

"What's the Tea bitch?" How many times have you picked up the phone and called an acquaintance and asked this question? I think we all are guilty of doing so at least once, for some it's many more than that.

Why do we as human beings feel the need to manifest ourselves through the happenings of other peoples lives? Constantly, I find myself being approached by people asking me if I heard why so and so is in jail, and did I know that this person wrote checks and what about this person sleeping with that other person's lover.

Often I imagine a world in which people just live there lives and do what they are supposed to do while not caring about how other people live there lives. This makes me think of something I heard Oprah Winfrey say "God did not put you on this earth to worry about that". If we all followed this simple statement, we'd all be better off. True enough, we may be less informed, but just think about how much simpler your life would be. No one could ever say you started some mess with a statement you made and you'd never be caught in the middle of some he said, she said. I remember during my freshman year in High School, my English teacher wrote a statement on the chalk board and said if you live be this sentence, your life will be so much better. That statement, "In the chain of gossip I will be the missing link" sticks with me to this day. For the most part, I've been fairly successful at sticking to this, although I, just like you, enjoy the once in a while indulgence of the often sordid details of someone else's life.

While this may all be done in jest and with the attempt to keep everyone informed; gossip can have an adverse effect as well. A series of recent events that occurred within my household confirms this statement. Recently, an acquaintance of one of my roommates took it upon himself to repeatedly take the details of what he saw and heard while visiting my home to his friends. In the process of not minding his own business he caused a lot of stress, strife and grief. I didn't speak to my bestfriend for almost a week mainly because of things this intruder had told others. Not to say that he intentionally set out to cause trouble between my bestfriend and I, because that wasn't his agenda. His agenda was to make himself look good to someone my roommate is dating. It seems as if this person had his eye on the same person and was willing to do what it took, at all costs. The funny thing is that, he didn't succeed at what he set out to do; but in the process he put a strain on a friendship that is so important to me as well as a strain on the household (I have two roommates) in it's entirety. We can now laugh at his deceipt, trickery and looseness of the lips, because we learned a valuable lesson. As a result our friendship is stronger and the next time, although highly unlikely, someone infiltrates our "network" with a malicious intent; that person will not be successful, in fact, he/she should be prepared for a serious physical and mental beat down!

Rande Rochelle

The Making Of A Ledgend

A true diva lives in our midst, but one would never know, unless someone told you it was so. A rising star and a true friend of the people is Houston's Rande Rochelle. Having been a staple in the entertainment industry for years Rande's story is an interesting one. So here!

Born Joseph Semien some thirty two years ago in Layfayette, Louisana, Rande is proud to have the support of his family which is very difficult for gay people today. " My mom found a letter when I was 16 years old and said she always knew but was waiting for me to tell her." Since then, Rande and his mom have been best friends and his entire family has accepted him.

A very sexual person, Rande admits to not having had sex in a very long time, partly because he is waiting for a good man and his line of work does not make it very easy. Rande appears in drag about 40 percent of the time but this many men find to be a turn off. The gorgeous Rochelle is not bothered though, as he is a good looking man in and out of drag.

Having done the acting straight thing, Randy is very comfortable with his sexuality and when asked, how old was he when he first had sex, he blushed revealing cute dimples and a very pretty smile. His answer was equally fierce as he retorted, " For this interview, shall we say I started when I was eighteen. " Rande went to his first Gay club when he was only twelve years old, and started doing drag at an employee show at Studio 13." I did Patty Labelle's You Turn Me On". Rochelle describes this event as an exhilarating one which made a big impact on his career.

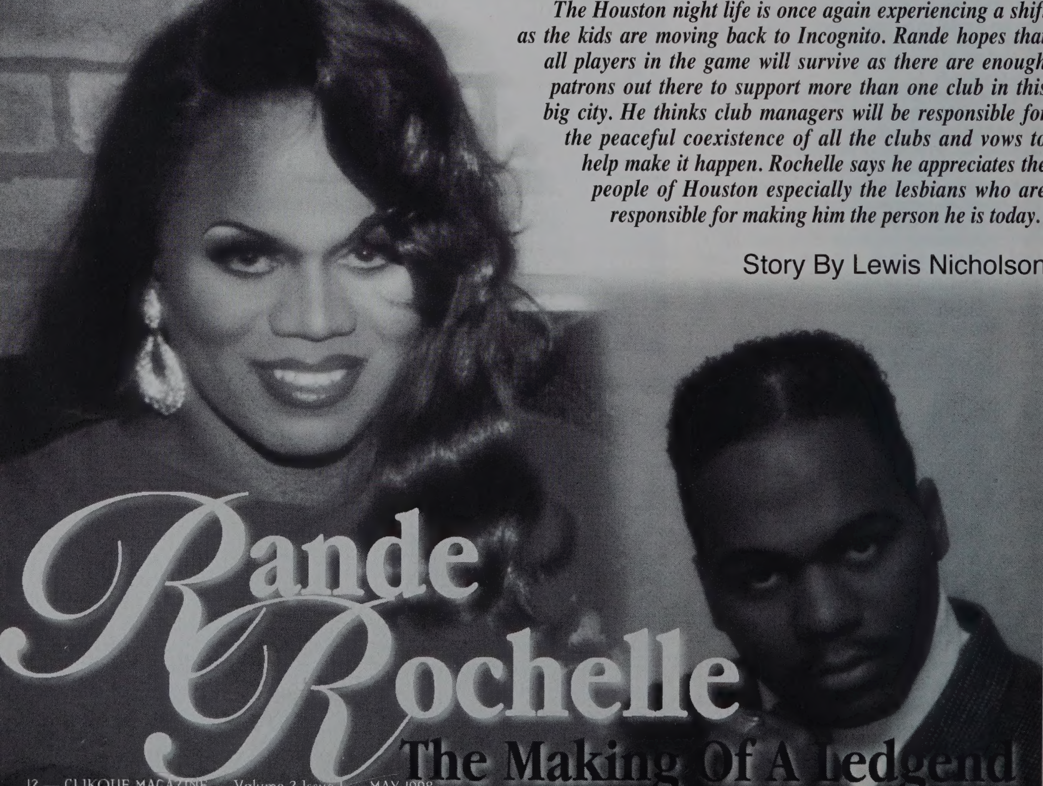
Speaking on the subject of his popularity, Rande says he is amazed at the way people flock to his events. But if you ever attended a Rochelle party you would understand why. The cutest people always show up and the line up of entertainers is always flawless. According to one of his fans Rande is popular because he is a people person and the dates are always at his functions.

Rande is a pretty spiritual person and thanks God everyday for his many blessings. Rande has performed in Texas, Georgia and Louisiana and other southern states but feels like Atlanta would be a nice place to live because there are tons of business opportunities there for him.

Currently employed at Incognito The Club as the Entertainment Director Rochelle says, "It takes three people to be me, as I am always trying to be a part of something. I feel like I will miss something if I am not there" and we understand why. Rande is involved in many projects and is always willing to help anyone in need of his expertise. The brown haired , brown eyed beauty fits well into his 5ft 11in frame and says he feels like a petite bombshell in drag.

The Houston night life is once again experiencing a shift as the kids are moving back to Incognito. Rande hopes that all players in the game will survive as there are enough patrons out there to support more than one club in this big city. He thinks club managers will be responsible for the peaceful coexistence of all the clubs and vows to help make it happen. Rochelle says he appreciates the people of Houston especially the lesbians who are responsible for making him the person he is today.

Story By Lewis Nicholson



FRESH FACE OF THE MONTH

MAY '98

TAYLOR MABRIE

AGE: 21 • 168LBS • 31" WAIST • SIGN: GEMINI • STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Photos BY: Exposure Prints By Tio (713) 736-8069

HOT Male & Female Dancers

WE'RE GONNA MAKE U DANCE

Sponsored By:

Houston Splash '98

INCOGNITO
THE CLUB

& U-MEN•U-SWEAT ™

Houston Splash Jam '98

We've Got The Best DJs

Tony Powell & **DJ Derrick** Houston
Fred Pierce New York
DJ Chris Los Anegle

Saturday, May 2nd, 1998

Located At **The Hanger** • Corner of Roberts & Polk • 6 blocks from Incognito - The Club

For More Information Call 713-237-9431

The Story Behind

Houston Splash '98

Houston Splash is taking the Party circuit by storm with the biggest anticipated attendance in its history. Atlanta DC and LA had better watch out for here comes Houston.

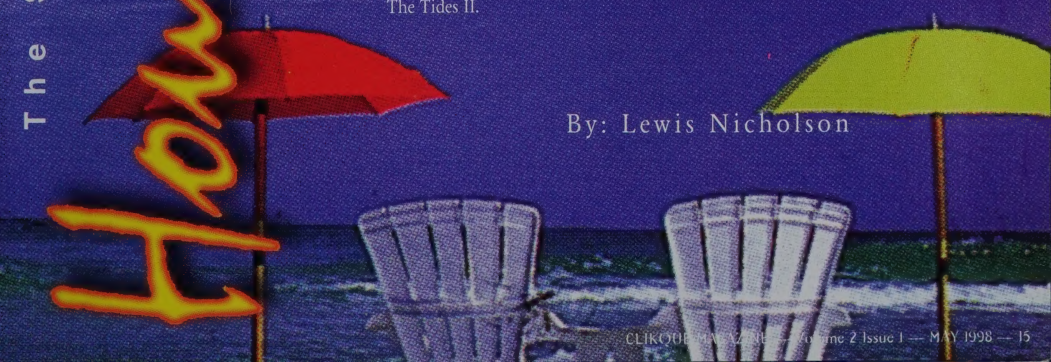
Splash in Houston has a rich history and heritage of which little has been made known.The first party held in May 1998 was hosted by Cookie La Cook the dinosaur of Hostesses who is still the unstoppable, undeniably best host this side of the Mason Dixon border. What is now known as "Houston Splash" began over twenty years ago as a largely white gay day at the beach that was traditionally held on the first Sunday of May. As the times changed and folks started dropping Drakkar for Izzy Myake and Flannel shirts were replaced by Donna Karan knit sweaters, the mainly white audience gave way to a more colorful melanin laden bunch. Eventually, the first Sunday in May became a largely black gay day at Stewart Beach.

In 1988 the premier Drag Fest and trade party was held on Sunday, May 5, 1988 at the El Mina Shrine temple. The head honchos of that first Galveston Beach Party were Tony Powell, Ricky Thurmond, Dwight Branch, C. David Pollard, and Ms. Jacobie.

Over the years the event has featured such entertainers as Tommie Ross, Socca Simone, Lawanda Jackson, Victoria Prince, Christy Coleman, Ebony Carrington, Shinique Shivon, Amazing Grace and many others.

In February of 1996 Derick Miles and Cliff Hunter, Co-owners of Incognito, The Club, A major black gay club in Houston formed Houston Splash™. Houston Splash has grown from being a southern event to a national event with the New York kids playing a major role this year. For a comprehensive list of all the Official Houston Splash events visit the website at http://www.houstonsplash.com or see their ad in this issue of Clikque Magazine. We encourage you to keep this issue of Clikque Magazine as it is the official comprehensive guide to all Houston Splash events.

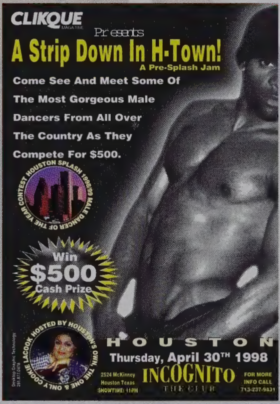
Houston Splash Committee: Cliff Hunter, President; Derick Miles, vice-president; Tony Powell, Music Director; Rande Rochelle, Special Projects Director; Cookie LaCook, Entertainment Director and Apples, Web Master. Sponsors of this year's Houston Splash events includes: Clikque Magazine, U-Men-U-Sweat, Incognito - The Club, ITC Productions, Cookie LaCook and Company, Another Rande Rochelle Production, Bla-Tino, Southwest Airlines, AVIS, Holiday Inn, The Harvey Suites, and The Tides II.



By: Lewis Nicholson

Houston

Official Events of


CLIKQUE MAGAZINE

Presents

A Strip Down In H-Town!

A Pre-Splash Jam

Come See And Meet Some Of The Most Gorgeous Male Dancers From All Over The Country As They Compete For $500.

HOUSTON SPLASH 1998/99 MALE DANCER OF THE YEAR CONTEST

Win $500 Cash Prize

HOSTED BY HOUSTON'S OWN, THE ONE & ONLY COOKIE LACOOK

HOUSTON

Thursday, April 30TH 1998

2524 McKinney
Houston Texas
SHOWTIME: 11PM

INCOGNITO THE CLUB

FOR MORE INFO CALL 713-237-9431

Desktop Graphic Technology 281.877.0478

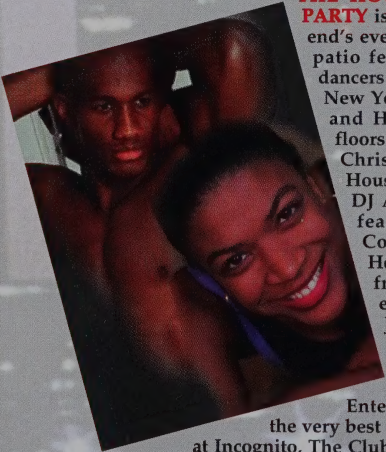
Thursday, April 30th

PRE-SPLASH STRIP DOWN IN H-TOWN We are bold to unfold, for we have struck gold, where go-go gods will meet to shock and compete. No weak hearts or excessive emotions, just be there at yet another Clikque Magazine Promotion

The Battle of the South (Another Clikque Event) was fierce, now come see the national go-go war as twenty-plus hot men compete for $500 cash. Event to be held at Incognito, The Club, 2524 McKinney at Live Oak, from 9 pm until. Showtime: 11PM Call 713-237-9431 for more info.

Friday, May 1st

THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 WELCOMING RECEPTION is hosted by Houston Splash, Incognito The Club and Clikque magazine and features FREE entry, FREE Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Located at Holiday Inn - Medical Center, 6701 S. Main St., from 6 pm - 9 pm.



THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 KICK-OFF PARTY is designed to kick-off all the weekend's events and it does it with a bang. The patio features some of the hottest male dancers in the country, with dancers from New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Dallas and Houston. Plus, THREE dance floors featuring DJ Dee - Houston, DJ Chris - Los Angeles, DJ Tony Powell - Houston, DJ Fred Pierce - New York and DJ Apples - Houston. The main room features a fabulous show hosted by Cookie LaCook with the best of Houston's local talent plus hot names from around the country. Featured entertainers include: Tommie Ross, Jasmine Bonet, Tasty, Big Yo, Double Impact, Chauncy Davenport and Betty Nealy along with the finest Female Entertainers Dallas has to offer. Plus, the very best of Houston's female talent. Located at Incognito, The Club, 2524 McKinney at Live Oak, from 9 pm until ??? 713-237-9431

Saturday, Ma

THE HOUSTON SPL
PRIDE FESTIVAL feature
booths, cards, dominoes,
fun! There is also a specia
4:00 pm featuring "The
Diva Extravaganza" with
Brooks, Chanel Nicole,
Lawanda Jackson, Nies
Victoria Prince, José Alex
Davenport, No Limit Sol
Porsche Paris, Jasmine Bo
Texas Teasers, Nikki Fost
Alicia Kelly and the Chica
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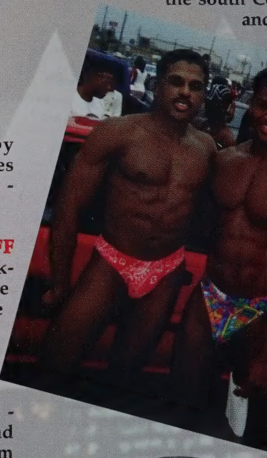

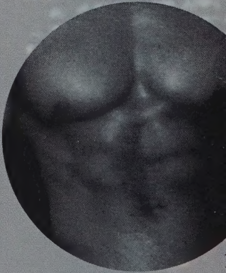

This Spread Is A Paid Advertisement Taken Out By The Houston Splash Committee.

Sponsors

CLIKQUE MAGAZINE

INCOGNITO THE CLUB

U-MEN • U-SWEAT

HOLIDAY INN

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plash '98

ouston Splash™ '98

Pride Festival '98

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Dupree,
er, Kelexis
s, Love Jones,
Tommie Ross, Tiffany Brooks, The
d Dirty Sally. Plus, special guests,
Warriors. Your emcee is the mouth of
e LaCook along with Flame Monroe
phia Macintosh. Located at Incognito, The Club, 2524 McKinney at Live Oak from 11 am until 8 pm. Sponsered by Houston Splash, Clikque Magazine and Another Rande Rochelle Production.

Saturday, May 2nd

U-MEN-U-SWEAT

THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 PRE-BEACH BASH is hosted by Houston Splash, U-Men'U-Sweat and Incognito, The Club. This is the biggest party of the weekend. It features DJ Fred Pierce from the Octagon in New York and DJ Tony Powell from Incognito, The Club in Houston. Plus DJ Apples from Houston, DJ Chris from Los Angeles and DJ Derrick from Houston. Also featured are Male and Female dancers, one of the largest dance floors in the city, multiple sound environments and the best drinks in the city. You don't want to miss this one. Located at the Hangar, on the corner of Roberts and Polk - 6 blocks from Incognito. From 8 pm until ???

Sunday, May 3rd

THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 BEACH PARTY features dancing, a swimwear contest for Male, Female and Drag, plus a hot show at 6:00 pm. Entertainers include Tijuana Brooks, Chanel Nicole, Big Yo, Lawanda Jackson, Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Kelexis Davenport, Flame Monroe, Chevelle Brooks, Porsche Paris, Chauncey Davenport, Tasty, Diamond Deliante, The Texas Teasers and Tommie Ross. Your hosts are Cookie LaCook and Otis Mack. This is a great way to cool down after the Beach. Located in Galveston at the El Mina Shrine Temple @ 5500 Seawall Blvd. in Galveston, Between 55th and 56th Street. From 4 pm until 10 pm. 713-237-0029.

PLASH-DOWN AT INCOGNITO is sponsored by Houston Splash, Incognito, the lub and ITC Productions. If you still have some party left in you after Galveston, you can splash-down at ncognito. There is a special show at midnight featuring Big Yo, Victoria Prince, Lawanda Jackson, Niesha Dupree, José Alexander, Sophia Macintosh, Jasmine Bonet, Alexis Vandinhurst, Chauncy Davenport, Flame Monroe, Tommie Ross, Alecia Kelly, , Nikki Foster and Tiffany Brooks. Cookie LaCook is your host. Plus, there is dancing on the Patio and in the main room before and after the show. Located at Incognito, The Club, 2524 McKinney at Live Oak, from 10 pm until ??? 713-297-9431

Monday, May 4th

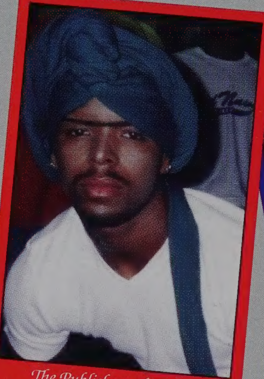
THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 FAREWELL PARTY sponsored by Houston Splash, Clikque Magazine and Incognito, The Club features Incognito's Hot Bodies Revue, a tantalizing floor show featuring Hot Male and emale Bodies. Hosted by Cookie LaCook, this show is always a favorite. Plus special guest Rande Rochelle. ated at Incognito, The Club, 2524 McKinney at Live Oak from 9 pm until ??? 713-237-9431

HARVEY SUITES
TIDES II MOTOR INN
SOUTHWEST
AVIS

SCENE QUEEN

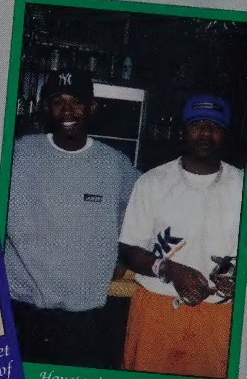
Clikque Magazine's Scene Queen Just Came Back From Her Monthly Excursion

Houston's own Tiffany Brooks performer Extraordinaire



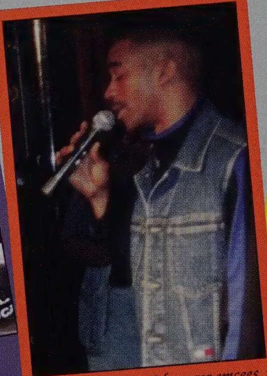
The Publishers of Clikque Magazine are in search of this DC Mugler Carter (face). Call ASAP!.

The Atlanta Diva - Jasmine Bonet strutting her stuff at the Battle of the South. Houston, TX



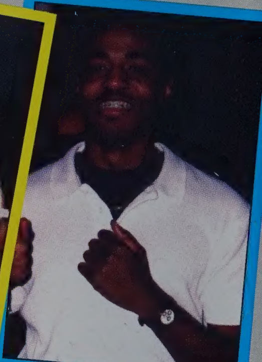
Houston's two leading male performers: Montel A. & Chauncey D.

Birthday girl Shirley at Club Extreme - Houston, TX

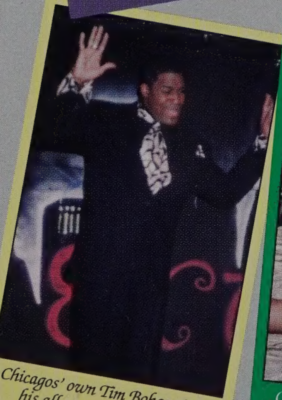


Club Promoter/Manager emcees Talen Night Fanals at Rascals. Houston, TX

Feeling Cuntee Kevin Aviance of New Yorks' Escuelita.

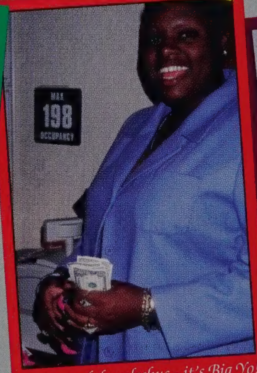


Houston Splash™ VP and Co-owner of Incognito-The Club at Club Extreme. Houston, TX.

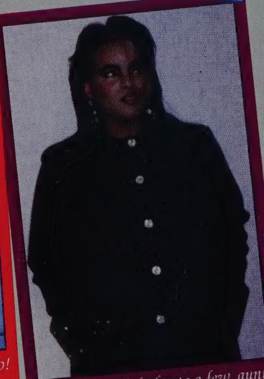


Chicagos' own Tim Bohar giving his all at a performance in Houston, TX

Chicago 's runway diva Ameilla Black-Prada and Houston's song bird Nichole Roberts.



Taste and deeeeleshus - it's Big Yo! Actually paying her way to the club, isn't that a shame? Houston.

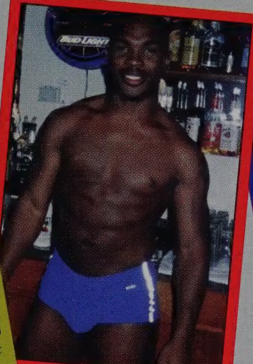


Mother to all, father to a few, aun to many, it's the talented and civi minded Rayceen. Washington, D.C

SCENE QUEEN

Night Club Tours Across America. Look What She Has Brought

The Voluptuous Alexis vanderhurst flooring the crowd at the Rascals Talent Finals. Houston, TX


What bar in Houston is CJ tending these days?

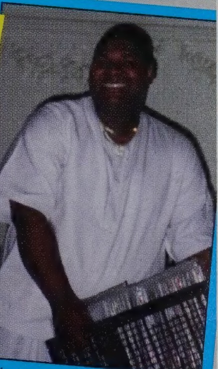
Former Miss Black Universe Sasha Valentino letting the kids have it on an excursion down south.

The Rock Socking Always Serving Legendary commentator Jack Mizrahi. DC

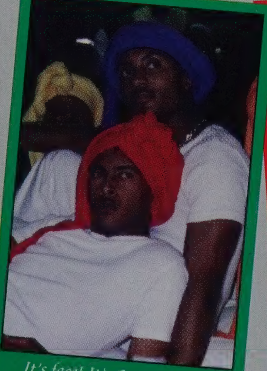
Houston's Cookie LaCook, always spilling the tea, this girl knows how to get paid.

Looks who's back. Dallas Promoter and Club Extreme manager, Romaldo giving face.

It doesn't get any better than this. Niesha Dupree Atlanta's Miss USA at Large.


District House Mother, Sedrick spins the kids in a frenzy. Washington, D.C.

Petite Porsche Paris Pleases People all the time. At a recent performance in Houston, TX.


It's face! It's Carter! It's the Ledgendary House of Mugler. It's Whitney! It's Fred! It's Ovah.

Or if I could serve face like this, I wouldn't need a job.

Sexy Stascha Sanchez subtly wo the audience like a true Atlant diva that she is.

HOUSTON Texas

Story By Dwight Powell.

Clikque Magazine welcomes you to Houston splash a city of great discovery, Houston offers tremendous contrasts with something for everyone. One of the world's greatest urban centers and the largest city in Texas as well as the fourth-largest city in the U.S., Houston has no match.

The capital of the international energy industry, Houston is also home to the world's largest medical center, a global nexus for life-changing innovations in medicine. Houston is one of the countries premier visual and performing arts centers, a pioneer in multicultral arts and a leading showcase for contemporary commercial architecture.

Houston is a thoroughly international city, and 65 nations have established consular offices here. The diverse population of the city is matched only by that of Los Angeles and New York. In fact, over 4.1 million people of more than 100 different nationalities speaking more than 90 languages call this mighty metropolis home. Known as the "Bayou City," Houston's cultural diversity, growing economy, medical facilities, shopping and entertainment venues offer excitement for all who choose to live or play in Texas' largest city.

At the city's urban core, the downtown Theater District shimmers with the talent of the countries most innovative performing arts companies. Home to more gold culinary awards than any other U.S. city, Houston boasts over 7,000 restaurants, elevating dining to the status of art.

Although Houston's night life can't be compared to the likes of New York, D.C. or Atlanta, there are places to go were you can have a great time. Just be prepared, we do things a little different down here. Since most of us are not very aggressive, we like to people-watch, however, we welcome your approach... but you must come correct. Our music is a little different, but ooh do we love to dance. Incognito - The Club, Rascals, and Club Extreme are three of the more popular clubs in Houston.

Annual events chronicle its international flare, including the Fiestas Patrias which celebrates Mexico's independence from Spain, The Houston International Festival, and Cinco de Mayo festivities.

Consisting of 40% of the cities population African-Americans have a rich history here. Houston is home to Shrine of the Black Madonna -- one of the largest African-American bookstores in the United States. Asian communities have skyrocketed with a Chinatown environment and the Di Ho area along Bellaire Boulevard.

Enjoy your stay here and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Here's What We Recommend

Where To Go?

Shopping/Malls

SharpstownMall - 281-875-6255
Greens Point Malls - 281-875-6255
Galleria - 713-622-0663

Restaurants

This Is It — 713-659-1608
Reggae Hut — 713-524-2905

Night Clubs / Bars

Extreme — 281-564-1000
Incognito — 713-237-9431
Rascals — 713-942-CLUB

Bookstores

Shrine of the Black Madonna
713-524-2905
Crossroads Market
713-942-0147

Attraction

Six Flags — 713-799-1234

Record Stores

Soundwaves — 713-660-8333

COME AND VISIT HOUSTON'S NEWEST NIGHT CLUB

EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 1

Dance Jam
f/ The Dallas Assassins
Exotic Dancers
Club Extreme 9PM — 4AM

SATURDAY MAY 2

BBQ Pool Party And A
Male & Female Swimsuit
Contest. f/Exotic Dancers
Days Inn — 1PM
Medical Ctr. — 713.523.3777

Splash Dance Party
f/ Exotic Dancers
Club Extreme 9PM — 4AM

Pajama Party After Party
Days Inn — 3AM - 7AM
Medical Ctr. — 713.523.3777

SUNDAY MAY 3

Farewell Celebration
f/ The Dallas Assassins
Club Extreme 9PM — 4AM

ENTERTAINERS

Tara • Kisa • P.J. • Rieman • Jode Malone • Chanel St. John • Christie • Ruby • Nikki FosterStrawberry Poision • Tasty • Silky • Suave 12 Inch & Many More!

EMCEE — BETTY NEAL

Club Extreme
NITE CLUB

11670 S.W. FREEWAY (WILCREST @ HWY. 59
281.564.1000
HOURS: 9PM - 4AM

DESIGNED BY:
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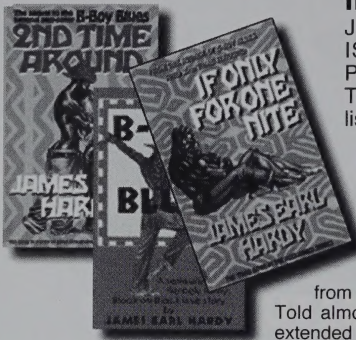
WE'VE GOT ONE OF THE LARGEST NIGHT CLUBS IN HOUSTON

THE BOOK STAND



If Only for One Nite

James Earl Hardy Pub. Price $11.95 B&N Price: $9.56
ISBN#: 1555834671 Publisher: Alyson Pub Format: Paperback
Publication Date: May 1998
This book is currently on order, however it will not ship until the publisher's release date.

REVIEW & COMMENTARY

From Publisher's Weekly:

"How many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll center of my Tootsie Pop? I don't know, but keep on bastin' and tastin' it wit that special sauce, and I'm sure you'll find out!" Amour fou gets a new twist in the third novel from African American gay novelist Hardy (B-Boy Blues and Second Time Around). Told almost entirely in flashbacks, the story centers on narrator Mitchell Crawford's extended affair with his preternaturally beautiful high-school gymnastics coach. Hardy's exuberant "b-boy" writing is best suited to the bedroom (and bathroom, locker room, gym, etc.) Often it descends into sloppy sentimentality, as witnessed in his attempt at a high-school valedictory speech. And, as usual, his work is free of complex moral reasoning: he condemns a sexually predatory preacher for the same behavior that he celebrates in the gym coach, the only discernible difference being that the coach is the better looking of the two men. Reckless, thoughtless, facile as it is, given the paucity of African American gay erotic writing, it is not difficult to fathom the popularity of Hardy's books. Author tour. (Sept.) -Publisher's Weekly

FROM THE PUBLISHER:

Mitchell Crawford attends his high school reunion - and faces his past, present, and future all at once. In addition to catching up with his classmates, he also sees the man who broke his heart. Warren Reid was Mitchell's gymnastics coach. Warren turned Mitchell, a student who detested all types of sports, into a statewide champion - and during that two years of training and triumph, they were lovers. For Mitchell, the affair was everything he had dreamed it could be - and Warren was all that he, an anxious and horny teenager just beginning to formulate a gay identity, wished for in a man. Warren was his first love, and like those naive and inexperienced in the game of love, Mitchell expected it to last forever. So he was more than a little hurt when, after he graduated, Warren dumped him, explaining, "I was not in love with you. How could I be? You're just a kid." With this painful memory, Mitchell argues to himself and others (including his lover of one year, Raheim "Pooquie" Rivers) that he couldn't possibly have any feelings for Warren. But all those feelings come rushing back on reunion night. Now 44, Warren's still got it goin' on: a regal six foot two, a solid 225 pounds, and, despite a few gray hairs on his head, a wrinkle-free, youthful face. Mitchell's best friend, B. D. (Barry Daniels, a.k.a. Brain Dense), warns Mitchell, "Good Black don't crack," and that despite his love for Raheim, he may find Warren too irresistible. And as he and Warren exchange flirtatious glances and talk through the night, Mitchell does. Naturally, Warren senses Mitchell's defense weaken and makes his move. Will Mitchell fall for his charms - and be the same fool twice?

Gossip Mill

THE GOSSIP MILL - MAY 1998
BY: THE LEGENDARY KEVIN ULTRA OMNI

Listen up kids...

...Be forewarned that we will premier our Gossip Mill Section next month. So, for heavensake, keep your house in order, or else we will have to do it for you!

Be Careful Who You Talk To!

Tea, It Does A Body Good!

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

You are a very trying and needy soul. Your intentions are honorable but you love too deeply and too strongly, too soon. That new crush in your life needs some breathing space, so ease up on the fellow or gal. For those of you in relationships, give your lover some room to breathe. Go shopping this month and this time buy your love something instead of spending all of the money on your self.

TAURUS

You stubborn bulls need to stop. Give that child who has been chasing you a chance. If he/she is a cancer you were meant to be, so settle down and buy a house. If he is a Pisces grab your purse and run because he is nothing but a player with a multitude of tricks under his belt.

GEMINI

Oh sweet precious one. This month will be one filled with sex for you. Everyone will find you irresistible including that gorgeous boy who vacuums your office. Play safe and have them all. It is not very often that you get to be the star.

CANCER

Take a break from the Soap Opera that has become your life. It is a very badly written one but because of your star qualities once again you are playing the lead. This month you will finally let go of that old flame who really does not want you and you will meet tons of Mister and Miss right nows. Have fun playing the field.

LEO

You are strong willed and usually right on the money. This month all your cards if played with caution will bring you big dividends. An Aquarius will fall madly in love with you and my take on this is for you to run to the altar. Work it gyrll.

VIRGO

You are anal but a very good person. Finally the right person is going to take notice. Your night in shining armor will show up and sweep you off your feet. Buy that gown you have been dreaming of and get you some Prada pumps to go with it. I hear wedding bells.

LIBRA

Pay up your debts to your friends and society. Stop pretending to be a compromising soul because we all know that you are self serving. This month will bring you lots of luck so play the lottery on the 15th of the month.

SCORPIO

You are the town whore and every body knows it but you. Stop playing miss goody two shoes because your act is very transparent. You are so lovable that this month many hearts will be broken as you continue to date a circle of friends. Get all the home furnishings you need because if anyone knows how to get unsuspecting men to buy you things it is you.

SAGITTARIUS

This is your month to shine so accept that Tiara and strut your stuff like the true queen that you are. Men will be falling all over you so don't be silly and chose those who are up to no good. The one with the gold tooth is a no- no and the one with the gut needs to join a gym. The others are fair game, do them all, two per night.

CAPRICORN

Like my daddy you are a tramp and the only freak in town. However this month you are about to be tamed by a cancerian with a million dollar smile and the body of a Greek God. Enjoy his kindness and off the hook sex while it lasts because he too needs a lot of attention.

AQUARIUS

You have finally fallen in love and you and your man are like glue. Enjoy! Those still single are hereby advised to lighten up and catch that prince while he is passing by. Don't wait until ,he has gone home with your ex because then it will be too late. Your ex is no good and the boy wont want anything to do with either of you he has your ex first.

PISCES

Your roaming soul will eventually find a place to rest. Your multiple boyfriends and dates will soon be narrowed down to one. Take my advice and make sure it is the right one. They are sometimes hard to spot but that is only because you are too demanding and you always feel like the grass is greener on the other side. It is not. Try dating an ex whom you stll find attractive.

Desktop Graphic
TECHNOLOGY

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ASK Bianca

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,1200 Mckinney St. Suite # 411-101, Houston Texas 77010. Or email her C/o Clikquem@aol.com

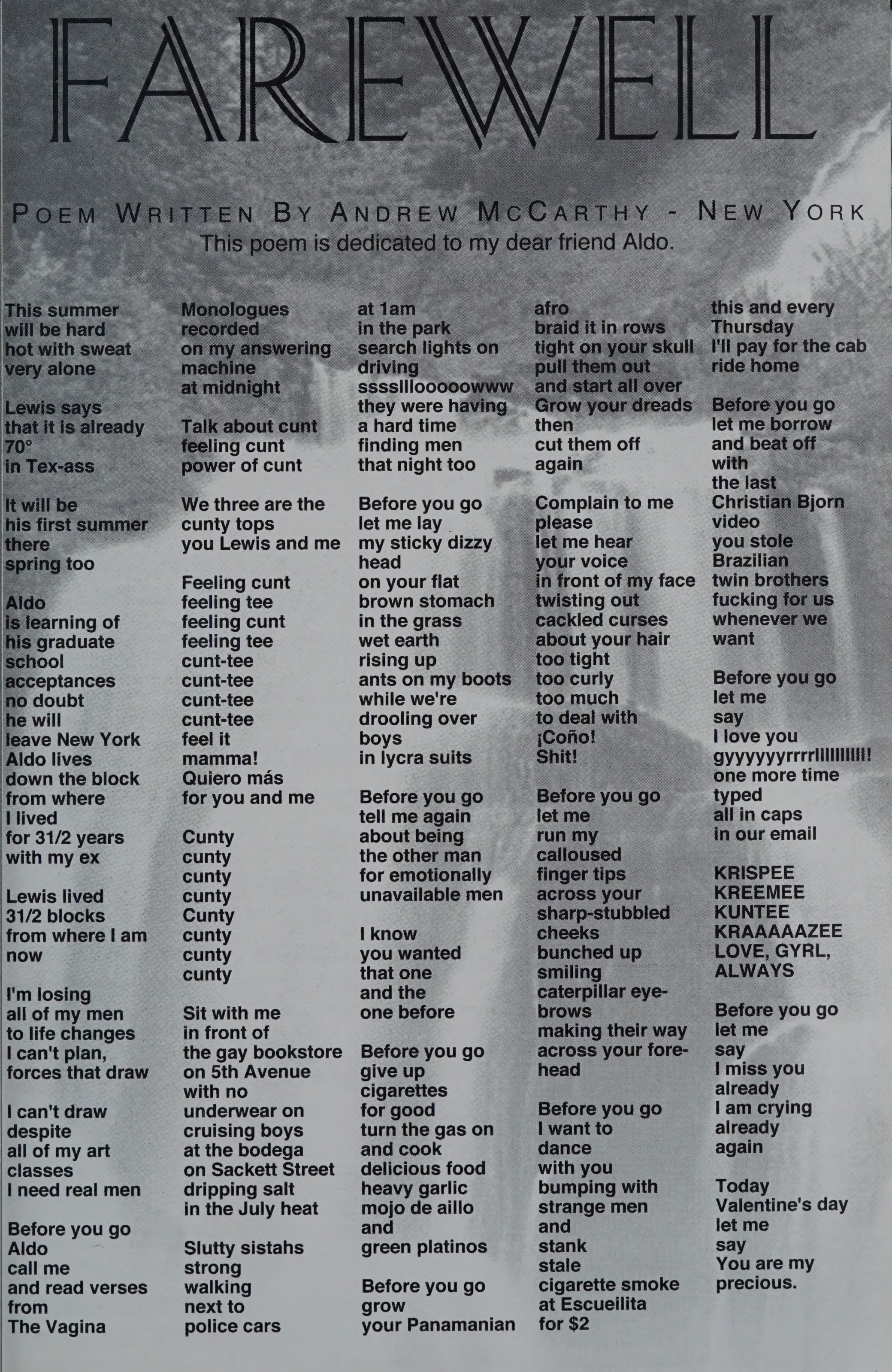
Hello kids,
Welcome back to Axk (Ask) Bianca here at Clikque Magazine. I really enjoyed my time spent in Jail and gyrlls let me tell you. I had every man there in the palms of my hands and I mean that literally. I went in a gyrll and came out a muscle bound hunkasaurus. My boyfriends love the new me. One claims that there is nothing better than screwing a real man. I never thought of myself as a real man but, what ever! I am pleased to announce that I am no longer on crack and I rarely use speed anymore. My new best friend is miss Betty Ford and I met Monica Lewinsky on my way from court one day. Now I am filing a case against the president because I was told that he was trying to make a pass on my picture as he was going through my FBI files one day. Anyway I am happy to be back and this month I am responding to two of your letters written before I was carted off to the Island ...(Rikers) in that nice blue and white carriage driven by two of New York's finest. Oh, by the way I moved to Houston with the Publishers of this rag but I am going to run right back to New York if I don't get that man from over on Harwin drive to commit to being my number one boyfriend.

Dear Bianka,
I am a 27yr-old black successful male. I've been dating my girl for 4 years and we are planning on getting married this June. Recently at the gym, I was propositioned by a guy and I told him I did not swing that way. However, I have been thinking about him ever since. I love my girl with all my heart but I have been having dreams about that dude. Bianka does this mean I am attracted to guys? What should I do. Do I tell my future wife? Damn, why is life so confusing.
Dreaming of biceps.

Dear Dreaming of biceps,
You need to come to terms with your self. I don't believe for a minute that this is the first time that you have found yourself thinking about dick. Do you think straight men who are propositioned by other men find themselves thinking about men from there on? Lies! I am afraid that you should take this guy up on his offer if you haven't already and have yourself a good time in the bulging biceps of another man. Trust me on this, it feels real good. You do not love your girl with all your heart because there is no such thing. You need to tell her that you find a man attractive and that her biceps are not big enough. Tell her to find a straight man, even though he won't be as good as you are in bed. About your being attracted to guys, do you really need my advice? If you are not attracted to guys then I don't know what your obsession is with this man's biceps. By the power invested in me I now declare you a full fledged faggot.

Dearest Bianka,
Recently my boyfriend was hospitalized. Although I never asked, he volunteered to me that while he was in the hospital he tested negative for HIV. Three days ago I was in his house reading a magazine and there was a letter in it from his physician stating that he was positive for the HIV virus. I feel betrayed because he lied to me and I didn't ask in the first place. I will support him no matter what. Should I tell him that I know? What should I do?
Dazed and confused
Chicago, Illinois.

Now, Miss Gyrll in Illinois,
You Midwestern kids slay me. You just happened to be reading a magazine in your mans house, and out jumps this doctors note with his HIV status and it lands directly in your face, at eye level. You were not snooping around and you had no idea he could be positive. Where exactly did you find the note, you lying queen? You and I both know that you cannot tell this man of your findings until he tells, you because you are likely to get a severe ass whoppin. He lied to you because he knew you would not be able to handle the truth. You feel betrayed? Ha! How do you think he is going to feel when he finds out that you went through his personal files. Come clean with your boyfriend and tell him the truth. Even though you are not used to doing so, it feels good. He may or may not dump your ass but I am sure you will be able to handle it. Try to keep your messy life clean in "98"



FAREWELL

POEM WRITTEN BY ANDREW McCARTHY - NEW YORK

This poem is dedicated to my dear friend Aldo.

This summer
will be hard
hot with sweat
very alone

Lewis says
that it is already
70°
in Tex-ass

It will be
his first summer
there
spring too

Aldo
is learning of
his graduate
school
acceptances
no doubt
he will
leave New York
Aldo lives
down the block
from where
I lived
for 31/2 years
with my ex

Lewis lived
31/2 blocks
from where I am
now

I'm losing
all of my men
to life changes
I can't plan,
forces that draw

I can't draw
despite
all of my art
classes
I need real men

Before you go
Aldo
call me
and read verses
from
The Vagina
Monologues
recorded
on my answering
machine
at midnight

Talk about cunt
feeling cunt
power of cunt

We three are the
cunty tops
you Lewis and me

Feeling cunt
feeling tee
feeling cunt
feeling tee
cunt-tee
cunt-tee
cunt-tee
cunt-tee
feel it
mamma!
Quiero más
for you and me

Cunty
cunty
cunty
cunty
Cunty
cunty
cunty
cunty

Sit with me
in front of
the gay bookstore
on 5th Avenue
with no
underwear on
cruising boys
at the bodega
on Sackett Street
dripping salt
in the July heat

Slutty sistahs
strong
walking
next to
police cars
at 1am
in the park
search lights on
driving
sssslllooooowww
they were having
a hard time
finding men
that night too

Before you go
let me lay
my sticky dizzy
head
on your flat
brown stomach
in the grass
wet earth
rising up
ants on my boots
while we're
drooling over
boys
in lycra suits

Before you go
tell me again
about being
the other man
for emotionally
unavailable men

I know
you wanted
that one
and the
one before

Before you go
give up
cigarettes
for good
turn the gas on
and cook
delicious food
heavy garlic
mojo de aillo
and
green platinos

Before you go
grow
your Panamanian
afro
braid it in rows
tight on your skull
pull them out
and start all over
Grow your dreads
then
cut them off
again

Complain to me
please
let me hear
your voice
in front of my face
twisting out
cackled curses
about your hair
too tight
too curly
too much
to deal with
¡Coño!
Shit!

Before you go
let me
run my
calloused
finger tips
across your
sharp-stubbled
cheeks
bunched up
smiling
caterpillar eye-
brows
making their way
across your fore-
head

Before you go
I want to
dance
with you
bumping with
strange men
and
stank
stale
cigarette smoke
at Escueilita
for $2
this and every
Thursday
I'll pay for the cab
ride home

Before you go
let me borrow
and beat off
with
the last
Christian Bjorn
video
you stole
Brazilian
twin brothers
fucking for us
whenever we
want

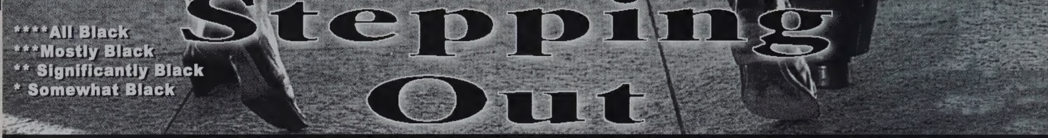
Before you go
let me
say
I love you
gyyyyyyrrrrllllllllllll!
one more time
typed
all in caps
in our email

KRISPEE
KREEMEE
KUNTEE
KRAAAAAZEE
LOVE, GYRL,
ALWAYS

Before you go
let me
say
I miss you
already
I am crying
already
again

Today
Valentine's day
let me
say
You are my
precious.

Stepping Out



****All Black
***Mostly Black
** Significantly Black
* Somewhat Black

YOUR PREMIER GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below. Source: BLK.com

ALABAMA

CLUB 21**, 117 N. 21st St., Birmingham 35203, 205-322-0469.

ARIZONIA

HARLEY'S 155*, 155 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix 85013, 602-274-8505. Blackest Thursday and Saturday.

INCOGNITO***, 2424 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix 85016, 602-955-9805. Blackest Friday and Saturday after hours.

CALIFORNIA

ALIBI EAST/BACK ALLEY*, 225 S. San Antonio Ave., Pomona 91766, 909-623-9422.

ANNEX**, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood 90301, 310-671-7323.

BENCH & BAR*, 120 - 11th St., Oakland 94607, 510-444-2266.

BOX*, 715 Harrison St., San Francisco 94107, 415-647-8258. dancebox@aol.com

BRASS RAIL*, 3796 Fifth Ave., San Diego 92103, 619-298-2233.

CABEL'S REEF****, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 94612, 510-451-3777.

CAPER ROOM****, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood 90301, 310-677-0403.

CATCH ONE****, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-734-8849, 213-737-1159.

CLUB Q**, 177 Townsend St., San Francisco 94107-1907, 415-647-8258. First Friday of month. qdance@aol.com

COMFORT ZONE***, 581 Fifth St., Oakland 94607, 510-869-4847. Saturday only

COTTAGE****, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-935-5540.

DETOUR**, 1087 Manzanita St., Los Angeles 90029.

DRAMA****, 5047 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019-4129, 213-936-8913.

ENDUP**, 401 - 6th St., San Francisco 94107, 415-357-0827, 415-896-1075, 415- 896-1095, 415-541-9422 (fax). Blackest Sunday afternoon.

EXPRESS*, 708 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno 93701, 209-233-1791.

FAULTLINE*, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles 90029, 213-660-0889.

HORIZON****, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles 90018.

JEWEL'S ROOM****, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-737-1159.

LODGE***, 4923 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood 91601, 818-769-7722. Blackest on Saturday late.

MENAGERIE**, 3581 University, Riverside 92501, 909-788-8000.

PENDULUM***, 4146 - 18th St., San Francisco 94114, 415-863-4441.

RAGE*, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90069, 310-652-7055.

RICH'S*, 1051 University Ave., San Diego 92103, 619-295-2195.

ROBBIE'S*, 390 Pomona Mall, Pomona 91761, 909-620-4371.

STUDY***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles 90027, 213-464-9551.

WHITE HORSE INN*, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 94609, 510-652-3820.

COLORADO

CLUB RAVEN***, 2217 Welton St., Denver 80205, 303-296-1741. Open weekends only.

CONNECTICUT

ART BAR**, 84 W. Park St., Stamford 06902, Sunday night only.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

BACHELOR'S MILL****, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-1931.

BACK DOOR PUB****, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-546-5979.

CIRCLE AKA RASCAL'S**, 1629 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 20036, 202-462-5575. Blackest Friday and Saturday nights, and Sunday afternoon.

DELTA ELITE****, 3734 10th St., N.E., Washington 20017, 202-529-0626. Gay on Friday and Saturday.

EDGE***, 56 L St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

FIREPLACE**, 2161 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-1293. Blackest daily at happy hour.

FRATERNITY HOUSE*, 2122 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-223-4917. Blackest downstairs.

MR. P'S*, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-9009.

NOB HILL****, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington 20010, 202-797-1101.

PHASE ONE***, 525 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-6831.

SUGAR KANE PALACE****, 221 Riggs Rd., N.E., Washington 20011, 202-269-4145.

TRACKS 2000****, 1111 - 1st St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-3320. Blackest on Sunday. Mostly black Womyn's Night last Tuesday of month..

ZIEGFIELD'S****, 1345 Half St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-554-5141. Black and lesbian Thursday.

FLORIDA

BOARDWALK**, 17008 Collins Ave. N., North Miami Beach 33160, 305-354-8617.

CLUB OBSESSIONS****, 7900 N.E. First Ave., Miami 33138.

CLUB PARK AVENUE***, 115 E. Park Ave., Tallahassee 32301, 904-599-9143. Blackest on Sunday.

COPA NIGHTCLUB***, 2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 33316. Blackest on Sunday.

ON THE WATERFRONT****, 3615 N.W. South River Dr., Miami 33142, 305-635-5500. Blackest on Tuesday.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE***, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32805, 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS****, 375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando 32803, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

SUGAR'S****, 17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami 33160-3113, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

THIRD DIMENSION**, 711 Edison Ave., Jacksonville 32204, 904-353-6316.

TRACKS***, 1430 E. 7th Ave., Tampa 33605, 813-247-2711. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

GEORGIA

ARMORY*, 836 Juniper, Atlanta 30309, 404-881-9280.

LORETTA'S****, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta 30308, 404-874-8125.

OTHERSIDE****, 1924 Piedmont Rd., Atlanta 30324, 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

PALACE****, 13 Simpson St., Atlanta 30303.

WORLD CLUB/TRAXX***, 306 Luckie St., N.W., Atlanta 30313, 404-681-5033. Black and gay on Saturday. Straight on Thursday and Friday.

IOWA

6:20*, 620 S. Madison, Iowa City 52240, 319-354-2494.

BLAZING SADDLES*, 416 E. 5th St., Des Moines 50309, 515-246-1299.

CLUB*, 506 S. Brady St., Davenport 52801.

ILLINOIS

BATON SHOW LOUNGE**, 436 N. Clark St., Chicago 60610, 312-644-5269.

BERLIN*, 954 W. Belmont, Chicago 60657, 773-348-4975. Blackest on third Sunday of month..

FACES***, 130 N. 4th St., East St. Louis 62201, 618-271-7410.

GENERATOR****, 306 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60661, 312-243-8889.

GENTRY ON RUSH**, 712 N. Rush St., Chicago 60611, 312-664-1033. Blackest on Saturday.

GENTRY ON HALSTED*, 3320 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

JEFFREY PUB****, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago 60649, 773-363-8555.

JR'S*, 325 - 20th St., Rock Island 61201, 309-786-9411.

LITTLE JIM'S*, 3501 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-871-6116. Blackest on Saturday.

NUTBUSH CITY LIMITS**, 301 N. Harlem Ave., Forest Park 60130, 708-366-5117.

ROSCOE'S TAVERN & CAFE*, 3354-6 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-281-3355.

KANSAS

OUR FANTASY*, 3201 S. Hillside, Wichita 67216, 316-682-5494.

LOUISIANA

BOURBON PUB*, 801 Bourbon, New Orleans 70116, 504-529-2107.

BUS STOP**, 542 N. Rampart, New Orleans 70112.

GOLDEN LANTERN**, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans 70116, 504-523-6300.

OZ**, 800 Bourbon St., New Orleans 70116, 504-593-9491.

PARADE DISCO*, 801 Bourbon, New Orleans 70116, 504-529-2107.

WOLFENDALE'S****, 834 N. Rampart, New Orleans 70116, 504-524-5749.

MARYLAND

ALLEGRO**, 1101 Cathedral St., Baltimore 21201, 410-837-3906.

BUNN'S****, 608 W. Lexington St., Baltimore 21201, 410-234-2866.

HIPPO**, 1 W. Eager St., Baltimore 21202, 410-547-0069. Blackest on Thursday.

PARK SPORTSMAN BAR****, 412 Park Ave., Baltimore 21201, 410-727-9620, 410-727-8935.

MICHIGAN

CONTINENTALE***, 156 Monroe, Detroit 48226.

MENJOS*, 928 W. McNichols, Detroit 48203, 313-863-3934.

RAILROAD CROSSING*, 6640 E. 8 Mile, Detroit 48234, 313-891-1020. Women.

SHOPPER'S LOUNGE****, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit 48226, 313-961-1916.

MINNESOTA

GAY 90S*, 408 Hennepin, Minneapolis 55401, 612-333-7755.

SALOON*, 830 S. Hennepin, Minneapolis 55403, 612-332-0835.

MISSOURI

Club 747****, 1624 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis 63103, 314-621-9030.

MAGNOLIA'S RESTAURANT AND BAR*, 5 S. Vandeventer, St. Louis 63108, 314-652-6500.

MISSISSIPPI

CLUB CITY LIGHTS**, 200 N. Mill St., Jackson 39201, 601-353-2041.

NORTH CAROLINA

SCORPIO LOUNGE*, 2301 Freedom Dr., Charlotte 28208, 704-373-9124.

NEW JERSEY

FIRST CHOICE**, 533 Ferry St., Newark 07105, 201-465-1944.

KEY WEST*, 611 Heck St., Asbury Park 07712.

MURPHY'S**, 59 Edison St., Newark 07102, 201-622-9176.

NEW YORK

CLIT CLUB**, 101 Ave. A, New York 10009, Tuesdays only. Women.

CLIT CLUB**, 432 W. 14th St., New York 10014, 212-406-1114. Fridays only. Women.

CLUB HOUSE 134*, 134 Dewey Ave., Buffalo 14214.

KELLERS****, 384 West St., New York 10014, 212-243-1907.

MANHATTAN MONSTER**, 80 Grove St., New York 10014, 212-924-3558.

NITE SPOT**, 201 Windsor, Jamestown 14701, 716-483-3456.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT**, 1 Front St., Brooklyn 11201, 718-852-0139.

OCTAGON****, 555 W. 33rd St., New York 10001, 212-947-0400.

RED ZONE**, 2018 45th St., Astoria 11105-1230.

SOUND FACTORY**, 618 W. 46th St., New York 10001, 212-643-0728. Blackest on Saturday.

TWO POTATO***, 143 Christopher St., New York 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

UNCLE CHARLIE'S**, 56 Greenwich Ave., New York 10011, 212-255-8787.

CLUB UNIQUE****, 1415 Locust St., Philadelphia 19102-3810. Sunday only.

OHIO

1470 WEST***, 1470 W. Dorothy Ln., Dayton 45409, 513-293-0066.

COLUMBUS CONNECTION**, 851

DOMINOS****, 612 Prospect Ave., Cleveland 44115, 216-771-9020.

NUMBERS****, 620 Frankfort Ave., Cleveland 44113, 216-621-6900. Black on Friday.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS****, 2909 Detroit Ave., Cleveland 44113, 216-574-2203. Black on Saturday.

PENNSYLVANIA

SKYLINE CLUB***, 12th & Arch St., Philedelphia 19107. Blackest Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

SOUTH CAROLINA

CANDY SHOP**, 1903 Two Notch Rd., Columbia 29204.

NEW ATTITUDE**, 706 W. Washington St., Greenville 29601, 803-233-1387.

TENNESSEE

AMNESIA*, 2866 Poplar, Memphis 38111, 901-454-1366.

BACKSTREET MEMPHIS*, 2018 Court Ave., Memphis 38104, 901-276-5522.

HIDEAWAY****, 3620 Buena Vista Pike, Nashvile 67218, 615-256-4666.

N-COGNITO****, 338 S. Front St., Memphis 38103, 901-523-0599.

TEXAS

BERRYHILL**, 12726 N. Freeway, Houston 77060, 713-873-8810.

CHARLIES***, 1301 Lavaca St., Austin 78711, 512-474-6481.

CLUB EXTREME***, 11670 S.W. Freeway @59. 281-564-1000

CREW*, 309 W. Market St., San Antonio 78205, 210-222-9553.

NCOGNITO****, 2524 McKinney St., Houston 77003, 713-237-9431.

METRO***, 2204 Elm St., Dallas 75201, 214-742-2101. (Mail: Box 1187, Dallas, TX 75221). manoman226@aol.com

OUTPOST**, 1419 Richmond, Houston 77006, 713-520-8446.

RASCALS***, 1318 Westheimer, 77006. 713-942-CLUB

SAINT*, 1430 N. Main, San Antonio 78212, 512-225-7330.

VILLAGE STATION*, 3911 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75219, 214-526-0690.

VIRGINIA

BABE'S*, 3166 W. Cary St., Richmond 23221, 804-355-9330. Women.

BROADWAY CAFE*, 1624 W. Broad St., Richmond 23220, 804-355-9931.

CLUB COLOURS***, 536 N. Harrison St., Richmond 23220, 804-353-9776.

RUMOURS II***, 1008 North Blvd., Richmond 23273, 804-358-3838.

WASHINGTON

833 RESTAURANT & LOUNGE***, 733 Commerce St. S., Tacoma 98402, 206-527-0733. Friday only.

EASY*, 916 E. Pike, Seattle 98122, 206-323-8343. Women.

MADISON PUB*, 1315 E. Madison St., Seattle 98122, 206-325-6537.

NEIGHBORS***, 1509 Broadway, Seattle 98122, 206-324-5358. Blackest Thursday and Friday.

OZ*, 1501 E. Olive Wy., Seattle 98122, 206-322-6356.

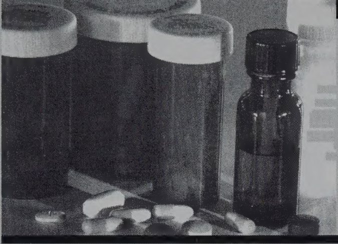
PADDYWACK'S*, 722 E. Pike, Seattle 98122, 206-322-7777.

RE-BAR*, 1114 Howell, Seattle 98101. Blackest Thursday and Saturday.

SEA WOLF SALOON*, 1413 - 14th Ave., Seattle 98122, 206-323-2158.

SIX ELEVEN TAVERN***, 611 - 2nd Ave., Seattle 98104, 206-345-9430.

TACKY TAVERN*, 1706 Bellevue Ave., Seattle 98122, 206-322-9744.



STATE BY STATE

HEALTH & AIDS ASSISTANCE

ALABAMA
Jeff. Co. AIDS in Minorities, Inc., Box 1116, Birmingham 35201, 888-687-2715, 205-323-7949, 205-323-5599 (fax), tmorris334@aol.com

ARIZONA
Tribe, 4700 N. Central Ave. #204, Phoenix 85012, 602-266-7233, 602-265-0374, lifegrd@apaz.org

CALIFORNIA
African-American Men's Health Project, 74 New Montgomery St. #600, San Francisco 94105, 415-597-9137.

African-American AIDS, Support Services and Survival Institute, 351 - 15th St., Oakland 94612-3303, 510-433-9377, 510-835-4206 (fax).

African-American AIDS, Support Services and Survival Institute, 105 S. Locust St., Inglewood 90301-1812, 310-419-1969, 310-419-1960 (fax), www.amassi.com

AIDS Project of the East Bay, 651 - 20th St., Oakland 94612, 510-834-8181.

AI DS Prevention Team, 1219 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90019, 213-964-7820, 213-964-7830 (fax).

Al-Anon for Black Gay and Lesbians, 1268 Sanchez St., San Francisco 94114, 415-995-2581.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-734-8849.

Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project, 405 Hilgard Ave., Box 951563, Los Angeles 90095-1563, 310-825-9858.

Brothers Network, 973 Market St. #650, San Francisco 94103, 415-356-8140, 415-356-8156 (fax).

Cocaine Anonymous, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-734-8849.

Drew University HIV Education and Outreach Projects, 1631 E. 120th St., #MP-25, Los Angeles 90059, 310-763-9746, 310-763-9780 (fax), drewuniv @earthlink.net

Drew University HIV Education and Outreach Projects, 2610 Industry Wy., Lynwood 90262, 310-763-9746, 310-763-9780 (fax), drewuniv@earthlink.net

HIV Survival Group for People of Color, IKUNU Program, 220 N. Euclid Ave. #130, San Diego 92114, 619-527-2477.

Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 90016, 213-936-4949, 213-936-4973 (fax).

National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, 973 Market St. #600, San Francisco 94103, 415-356-8100, 415-356-8103 (fax), 415-356-8138 (fax), ntfap@aol.com

People of Color Issues Committee, American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, 459 Fulton St. #107, San Francisco 94114, 415-255-4547, gaylesmed@aol.com

People of Color AIDS Survival Effort, 3177 Ocean View Blvd., San Diego 92113, 619-231-9300.

Positive Connection, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 90016, 213-936-4949, 213-936-4973 (fax).

Project WARN, 5601 W. Slauson Ave. #200, Culver City 90230, 213-641-7795.

Rafiki Services Project, 1042 Divisadero St., San Francisco 94115-4409, 415-346-5860, 415-346-6037 (fax), sfbcoa@earthlink.net

San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS, 1042 Divisadero St., San Francisco 94115-4409, 415-346-2364, 415-346-6037 (fax), sfbcoa@earthlink.net

Third World AIDS Advisory Task Force, 10 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco 94102, 415-487-8000.

COLORADO
B-A-Pal, 1525 Josephine St., Denver 80206, 303-388-5862.

Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, 2739 Milwaukee St., Denver 80205, 303-320-4602.

Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, Box 18974, Denver 80218, 303-399-0329.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HIV Support Group for African/American Men and Women, Whitman-Walker Clinic,1407 S St., N.W., Washington 20007, 202-797-3591.

Intergroup Minority Project: AIDS Consortium and Trust (IMPACT), 300 I St., N.E. #301, Washington 20002, 202-5-IMPACT.

National Minority AIDS Council, 1931 - 13th St., N.W., Washington 20009, 202-483-6622, 202-483-1135 (fax), nmac2@aol.com

Us Helping Us: People into Living, 819 L St., S.E., Washington 20003-3650, 202-842-1337, 202-547-1258 (fax).

GEORGIA
AIDS Education and Services for Minorities, 1432 Donnelly Ave., S.W., Atlanta 30310, 404-753-2900, 404-752-9610 (fax).

Brothers Back-2-Back, Box 7721, Atlanta 30357-0721.

ILLINOIS
Brotherrs Projects, 6540 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago 60637, 773-667-8313.

Minority Outreach Intervention Project, 1255 S. Wabash #2S, Chicago 60605, 312-986-0661, 312-986-0928 (fax).

AIDS Care Project, 140 Clarendon St., 6th Fl., Boston 02116, 617-859-3036, 617-859-0965 (fax).

Men of Color Against AIDS, 95 Berkeley St., 3rd Fl., Boston 02116, 617-423-6622, 617-423-4278 (fax).

Multicultural AIDS Coalition, 801 Tremont St. #B, Boston 02119-1065, 617-442-1622, 716-442-6622 (fax), multia@aol.com

MICHIGAN

Project Survival, 1150 Griswold, Detroit 48226, 313-961-2027, 313-961-0780 (fax).

NORTH CAROLINA
Lesbian and Gay Health Project, Box 3811, Durham 27702.

NEW YORK
Caribbean Women's Health Association, 244 Utica Ave., Brooklyn 11213, 718-826-2942.

Haitian Coalition on AIDS, 50 Court St. #605, Brooklyn 11201, 718-855-7275.

Majority Action Committee, ACT-UP, Box 7932, New York 10150.

Men of Color AIDS Prevention, Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #1100, Box 67, New York 10013, 212-788-4310, 212-788-9661 (fax).

Minority Task Force on AIDS, 475 Riverside Dr. #1374, New York 10115, 212-870-2691, 212-870-2607 (fax).

People of Color in Crisis, 462 Bergen St., Brooklyn 11217, 718-230-0770, 718-230-7582 (fax).

VOCAL, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York 10013, 212-566-4995.

OHIO
Living the Dream, 1277 Brookwood Pl., Columbus 43209, 614-252-4226.

OREGON
Oregon Minority AIDS Coalition, Box 12048, Portland 97212.

PENNSYLVANIA
Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI), 1233 Locust St. #401, Philadelphia 19107-5414, 215-546-4140.

TEXAS
Renaissance II, Brother 2 Brother Project, 2606 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.#203, Dallas 75215-6397, 214-421-4343, 214-421-2140 (fax).

VIRGINIA
Community HIV/AIDS Prevention Services, 1224 Princess St., Alexandria 22314, 703-549-4232, 703-768-9665 (fax).

WASHINGTON
Brother to Brother, 1200 S. Jackson #25, Seattle 98144, 206-528-2028, 206-322-7061.

People of Color Against AIDS Network, 1200 S. Jackson #25, Seattle 98144, 206-322-7061.

People of Color AIDS/HIV Support Group, Seattle, 206-322-AIDS.

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JUST FOR LAUGHS

REAL STORIES OF THE NON-TECHNICALLY INCLINED

I worked with an individual who plugged their power strip back into itself and for the life of them could not understand why their computer would not turn on.

1st Person: "Do you know anything about this fax-machine?"

2nd Person: "A little. What's wrong?"

1st Person: "Well, I sent a fax, and the recipient called back to say all she received was a cover-sheet and a blank page. I tried it again, and the same thing happened."

2nd Person: "How did you load the sheet?" 1st Person: "It's a pretty sensitive memo, and I didn't want anyone else to read it by accident, so I folded it so only the recipient would open it and read it."

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car. "Do you need some help?" I asked. She replied, "I knew I should have replaced the battery in this remote door unlocker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery for this?" "Hmmm, I dunno. Do you have an alarm, too?" I asked. "No, just this remote 'thingy,'" she answered, handing it and the car keys to me. As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, "Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries...it's a long walk."

Tech Support: "What does the screen say now."

Person: "It says, 'Hit ENTER when ready'."

Tech Support: "Well?"

Person: "How do I know when it's ready?"

My friend called his car insurance company to tell them to change his address from Texas to Vermont. The woman who took the call asked where Vermont was. As he tried to explain, she interrupted and said, "Look, I'm not stupid or anything, but what state is it in?"

Several years ago we had an intern who was none too swift. One day he was typing and turned to a secretary and said, "I'm almost out of typing paper. What do I ?" "Just use copier paper," she told him. With that, the intern took his last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five blank copies.

I was working the help desk. One day one of the computer operators called me and asked if anything "bad" would happen if she dropped coins into the openings of her PC. I asked her if this was something she was thinking of doing. She said, "never mind" and hung up. So I got out my trusty tool kit and paid her a visit. I opened her CPU case and sure enough, there was 40 cents.

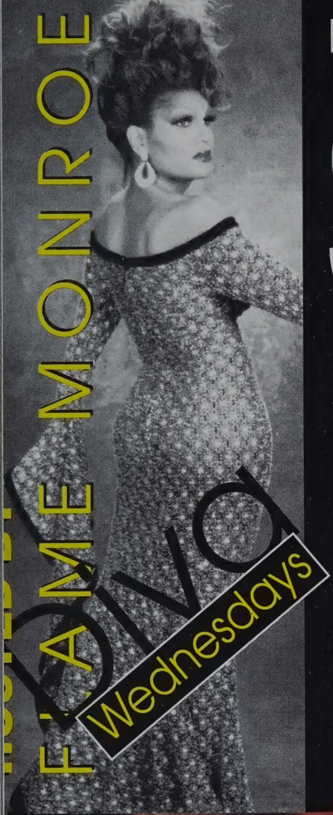
One of our servers crashed. I was watching our new system administrator trying to restore it. He inserted a CD and needed to type a path name to a directory named "i386." He started to type it and paused, asking me, "Where's the key for that line thing?" I asked what he was talking about, and he said, "You know, that one that looks like an upside-down exclamation mark." I replied, "You mean the letter "i"?" and he said, "Yeah, that's it!"

This person had a broken lamp which he wanted to discard. Unfortunately, the power cord ran under his refrigerator, making it impossible to move the lamp while the cord was attached. He decided to cut the cord, since the lamp was unusable anyway. He didn't remember to unplug it first. I found him in the hallway rolling back and forth.

I was in a car dealership a while ago when a large motor home was towed into the garage. The front of the vehicle was in dire need of repair and the whole thing generally looked like an extra in "Twister." I asked the manager what had happened. He told me that the driver had set the cruise control, then went in back to make a sandwich.

I called a company and asked to speak to Bob. The person who answered said, "Bob is on vacation. Would you like to hold?"

I rented a movie from Blockbuster. Before the movie begins a message comes on the screen saying, "This movie has been altered to fit you television screen." Comment from person: "How do they know what size screen I have?"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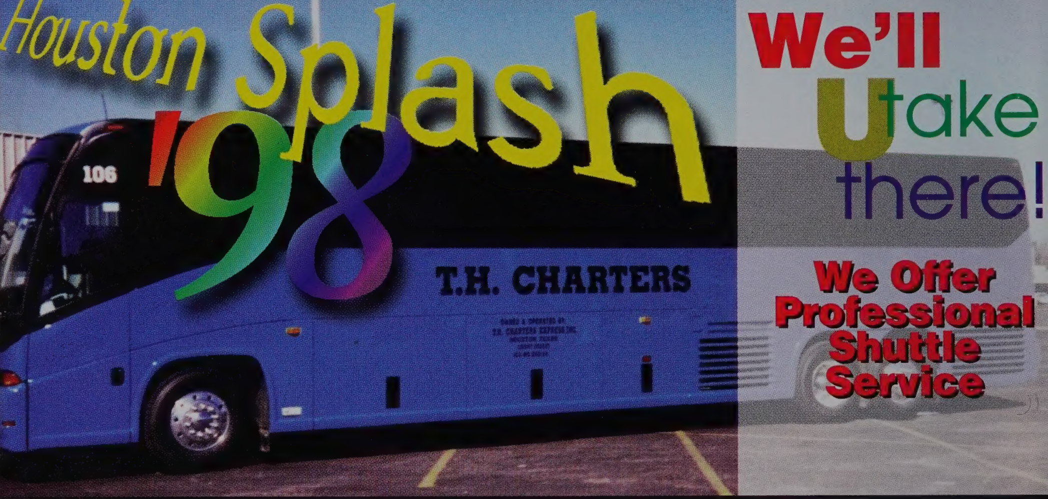

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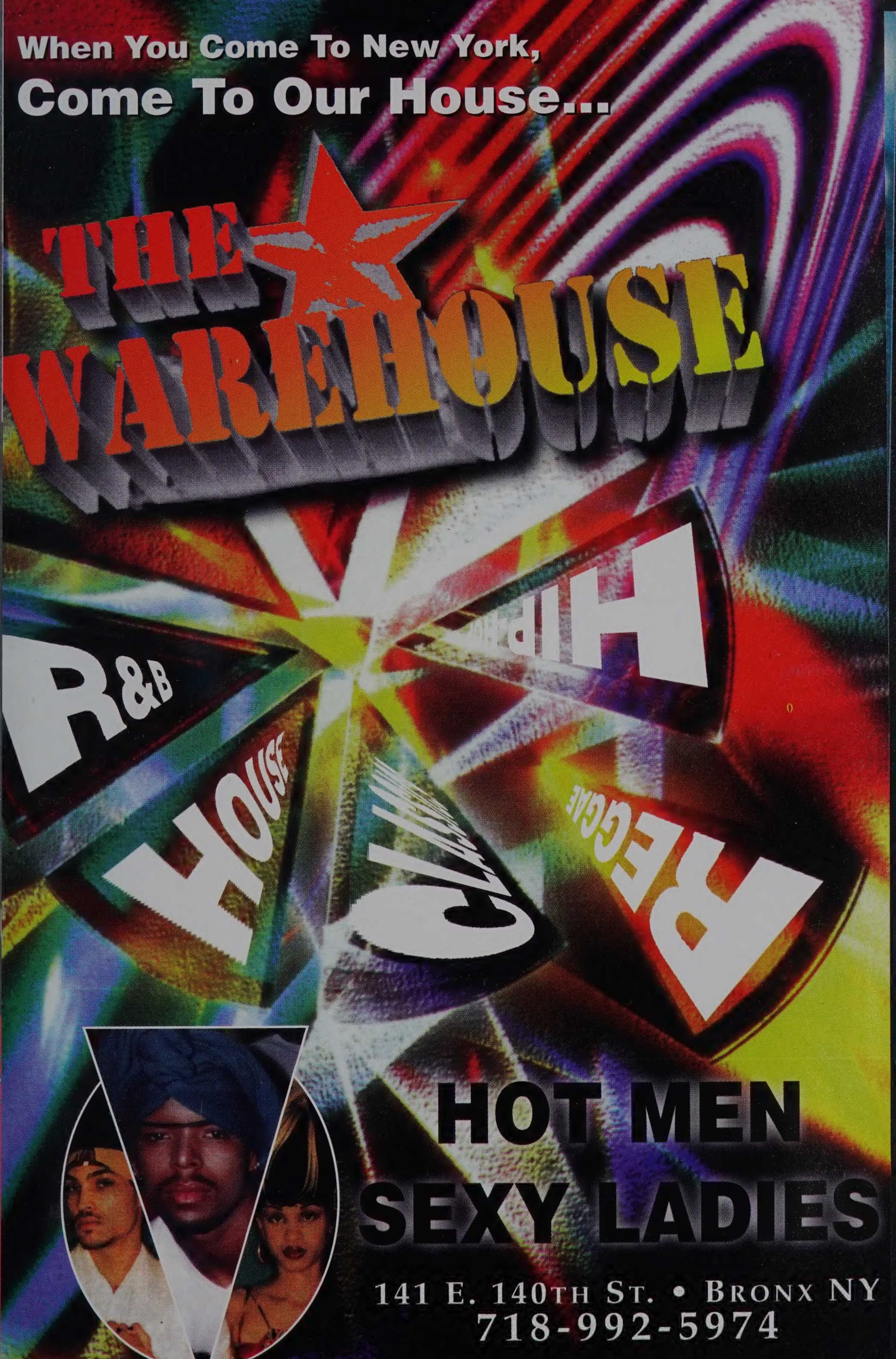
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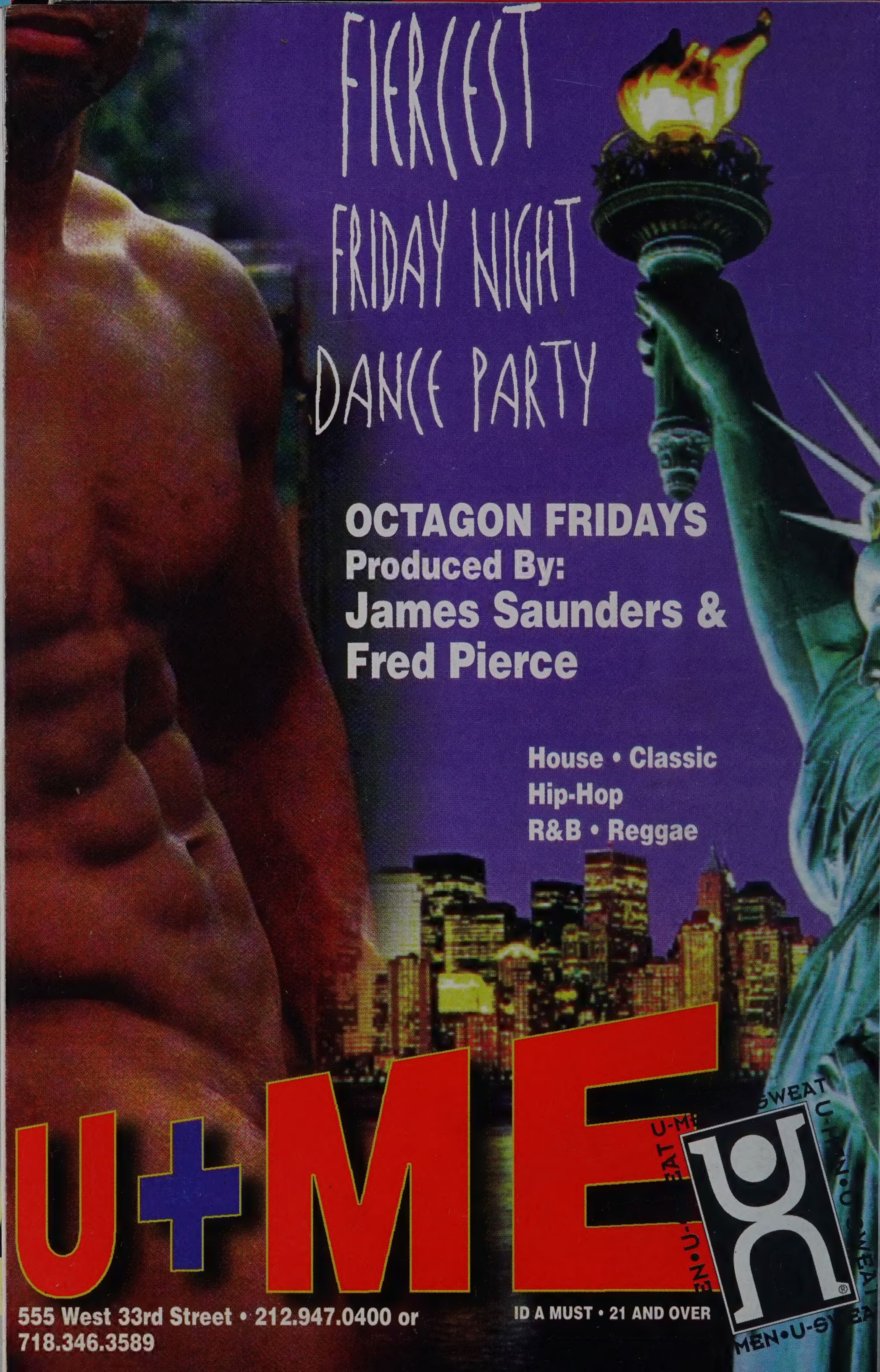
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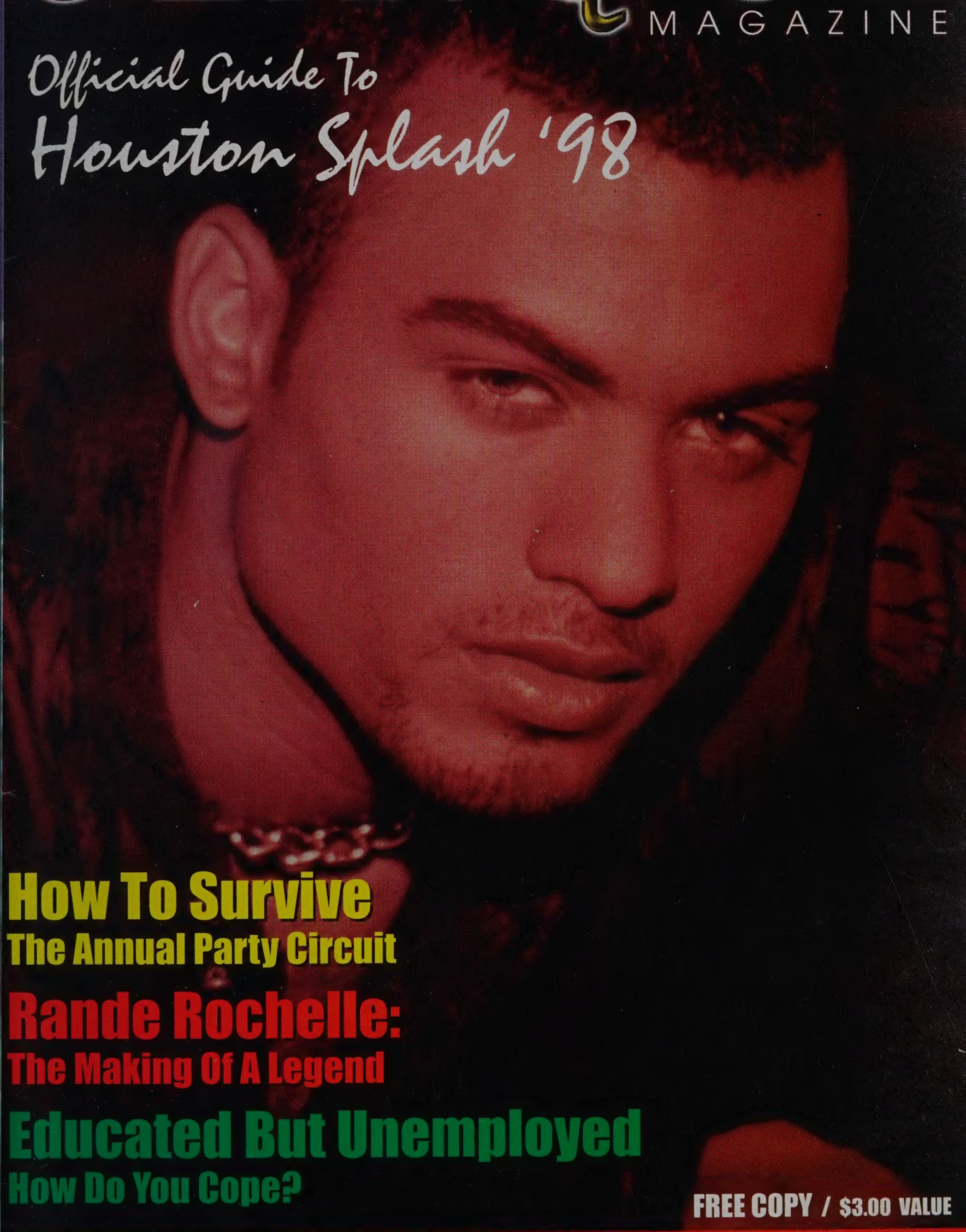

Official Guide To Houston Splash '98

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Your Complete News, Information and Entertainment Guide

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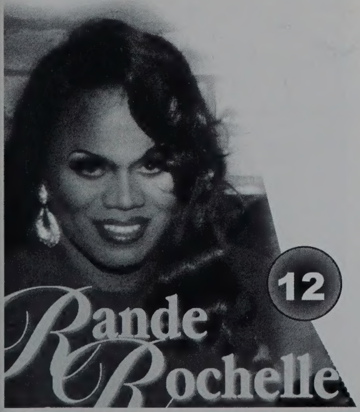

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Houston Splash '98

Cover photo by **Exposure Prints By Tio**
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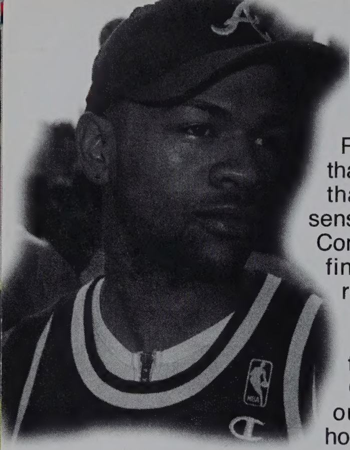


From The Desk of:
LEWIS NICHOLSON
Editor-In-Chief

Rhetorician Kenneth Burke, says that all of human life is drama and that we all have an ever present sense of guilt and a need to purge. Confined within these pages you will find a lot of purging and guilt redemption theories at work. Playwrite George C. Wolfe said that, all we own is our work and that, no one can deny us. We at Clikque are pleased to present our premier issue for 1998 and hope that you will find it informative , persuasive and stimulating. The stage is set and here are the stars of this drama. We hope you find their stories intriguing and inspiring as well as meaningful.

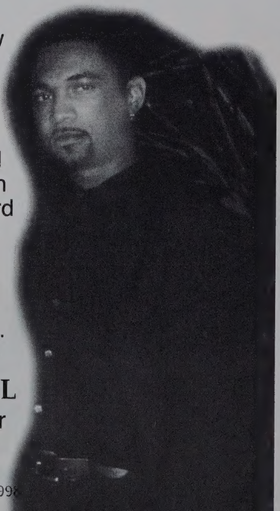
Thus far, this has truly been a tremendous 1998 for us here at Clikque. Producing a work of art, such as this is no small feat and I must commend my partner and Chief Operating Officer, Dwight Powell, on doing an excellent job. Had it not been for his resilience this project would not have been completed.

So here is yet another edition of Clikque, with its new look and many colorful pages.In this the year of Mergers and Alliances we are happy to announce the partnership of Desktop Graphic Technology and Clikque Magazine to form the New Clikque Magazine. Like the mergers between Chase Manhattan and Texas Commerce banks, Continental Airlines and Northwest, Clikque and Desktop Graphic plans to unite the north and the south in much the same manner producing the same results. A bigger, better and more capable means of serving your needs.

Our advertisers deserve special commendation for believing in us and the product we have created.Without them, we would not be here today and we are happy to be at their service.

If you are new to Clikque we welcome you and trust that you will be as intrigued as our current readers. Our mission is to inform, educate and entertain our community through a classy quality medium.

As the circuit party season has now officially began with Houston Splash we hope to be able to keep you fully informed about the happenings in the various cities. Washington DC is next on Memorial weekend, followed by New York in June and LA, then Atlanta in September. We look forward to a long and lasting relationship with you and hope to serve you even better in the coming year. Clikque magazine welcomes your ideas and opinions and hopes to hear from you soon.



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Surviving *The Circuit*

BY:
LEWIS NICHOLSON

It is circuit party time and we have all had a grueling six months at the gym in preparation for the upcoming events. Too bad we didn't spend that much time with our therapists, so that we would be able to take along our brains for the ride. So, the Louis Vuitton luggage is packed, with the Prada and Versace belts, the Armani t-shirts the Klein draws and of course, the Gucci pumps. The nails manicured, the feet scrubbed and we have splashed on all the Izzy Myake cologne we could pick up at Saks fifth. So what do we do now?

Take it from a circuit whore and listen carefully. After all that hard work we want you to feel actualized, as in the concept coined by Maslow in his Hierarchy of needs, the ultimate in self fulfillment. We do not want you at the end of labor day week end to feel as if though all that time and money was wasted because now you feel like a cheap novel which has been read, jacked off on, and tossed in the trash. Chances are you are trash but no one has to know that.

Here are some tips to survive the Party Circuit which starts in Houston at Splash and goes Northeast to DC and New York, West to LA and ends up in Atlanta leaving you whored out, and totally drained .

First, learn to act like the model that you are. Isaac Mizrahi may just be watching you make his garment look like something from K-Mart. Make sure the make up is right for that bright airport lighting and remember that for the duration of your stay, you will always be on stage, so work it. You are a star so be a part of the galaxy that appears at these events.

Have an ample supply of condoms handy because these things can get pretty wild. My advice however is to play hard to get and go home just the way you came, alone.

If you happen to be there with your significant other make sure to have that, oh so important discussion before hand so as not to spend the entire weekend arguing about who is acting more like a slut. Chances are, you both are acting like the most recent winner of the Miss Town Whore Pageant. Another alternative is to have the kids together, as in a three or foursome.

On to the crux of the matter here. You have finally had that lyposuction and your body is fab. Abs of steel, and the booty of doom with all the right outfits and degrees of nakedness. Everyone is looking at you and you feel pretty. What do you do? Choose one boy that you like and marry him for the weekend. Promise to write. No phone calls please. Long distance calls are a waste of money and trust me on this one, in exactly one month and your first phone bill you will be ready to call it quits. By now you know him enough to know that your neighbor of seven years is really a better catch.

The other principle that you may want to apply is the I am a whore but you are not getting any principle. This methodology utilizes the million dollar smile approach and the I am available for all your pleasures look. Dress simple but nice. Show off your best attributes and take all numbers and room numbers given to you. Walk like you are God's gift to creation and everyone will believe it.. Show off your stuff but go home alone. The fact of the matter is that you cannot possibly do all the boys you find attractive that weekend. At the end of the trip you would have a whole new phone list of people to look up if they get famous or make the evening news.

The final approach is the group methodology. In this approach group members are fierce looking and when they grace the runways all eyes are focussed on them including your boyfriend who never cheats. Make sure all members of your group fit the image you have created for yourself as in the very fine Mugler tradition, where all the face kids could be blood siblings of the Legendary Whitney Mugler. You are unapproachable unless the other child is a true star who did not make it in time for auditions for your group. So there you have it, apply any of these principles or make up your own. The point is to have fun, keep your phone bill low when this is all over, make a few friends so you have a place to stay when you do the circuit, and play safe so you will be at the function next year.

HIV/AIDS HEADLINERS

"Reaction Negative to HIV Surveillance"

Atlanta-Journal Constitution Online (04/18/98); McKenna, M. A. J.

Two community meetings held in Georgia last week--a town hall meeting sponsored by the AIDS Survival Project and the state Division of Public Health in Georgia on Friday and a meeting of the Georgia AIDS Task Force--reflected the negative responses by the community concerning the introduction of name reporting for HIV-positive people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advocates the use of name reporting, asserting that the measure allows increased surveillance accuracy. Currently, 31 states confidentially track the names of HIV-infected patients; however, New York, Illinois, California and Georgia--the states with the highest AIDS incidence--do not. At the meetings, participants discussed the use of confidential name records or the use of "unique identifiers,' which record information concerning the patients but does not use their names. Some participants argued that name reporting would deter possibly infected individuals from seeking testing, while others voiced concerns about the possibility of lost confidentiality.

"AIDS Deaths Fall"

Toronto Globe and Mail P. A1; Mitchell, Alanna; Campbell, Murray

HIV-related deaths in Canada dropped 26 percent in 1996 and may have dropped as much as two-thirds in 1997 as compared to peak numbers in 1995, according to a report released by Statistics Canada. The number of AIDS deaths dropped by over 450 to 1,306 in 1996 from the year before. British Columbia reported separately that its AIDS mortality decline may be even greater, with preliminary figures indicating a 56 percent drop in deaths for 1997. Preliminary figures from Quebec show a 50 percent decline, with 125 deaths in the first half of 1997 compared to 250 in the same period of 1996. The decline in mortality has been attributed to the advent of new drug therapies, including the use of protease inhibitors. AIDS activists warn that the disease is still not eliminated and that the drugs, which are expensive, are not available to everybody. The Canadian AIDS Society estimates that some 42,000 Canadians are infected with HIV.

"U.N. Promotes Female Condom Against AIDS in Africa"

Fox News Online

The United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS reports that conferences will be held this week in South Africa to increase the use of female condoms in 15 African nations. The meetings are part of an effort to decrease the spread of HIV. A study sponsored by UNAIDS in Thailand last year showed that sexually transmitted disease dropped by 34 percent and unprotected sex fell by 25 percent among sex workers when female condoms were made available to them. The agency noted that this year, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe have seen substantial sales of the condom, which is manufactured by Female Health Company of Chicago, Illinois.

"GOP Balks at Idea of Lifting Ban on Needle Funding: Conservatives Threaten Bills to Prevent White House Action"

San Francisco Chronicle Online (04/18/98) P. A3; Freedberg, Louis

Republicans voiced concern on Friday over the lifting of the 10-year ban on the use of federal funds for needle-exchange programs. Sen. Paul Coverdell (R.-Ga.) threatened to introduce legislation that would prevent Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala from allocating funds for the programs, noting in a letter to President Clinton that he finds "it difficult to comprehend how we can ask other nations to help us in our fight against drugs] when at home we are handing out free needles in our neighborhoods to drug addicts." Other critics, who include Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson, drug czar Gen. Barry McCaffrey, and former drug czar William Bennett, claim that the programs send mixed messages concerning drug use. In a counteractive move, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and four other mayors sent a letter to Shalala asking her to allow local governments to decide if existing federal funds for HIV prevention could be used to support the programs. Nationwide, there are about 100 community-run needle-exchange programs already in existence.

"Men's Priorities Affect Contraceptive Choice"

Fox News Online (04/16/98)

According to a study by Renata Forste and Julie Morgan of Brigham Young University in Utah, priority factors significantly affect contraceptive method choices among men. Men concerned about contracting sexually transmitted diseases were found to be more likely to use contraception designed to prevent STDs, while men worried about pregnancy used contraceptives with a greater birth control ability. The study involving 1,595 men found that 79 percent reported STD prevention as very important in contraceptive choice, while 89 percent of men were concerned with a contraceptive's ability to prevent pregnancy or sid
effects in their partner. About one-thir
of those surveyed reported engaging i
four to six risky behaviors, with a
increase in risk associated with
decrease in concern for STD infectior
The researchers also found that men wh
believe contraception is their responsibi
ity or shared sponsibility were more like
ly to protect against STDs.

"Defect in HIV Nef Gene May Explain Absence of Disease Progression"

Reuters Health Information Services

Researchers report in the May issue c
the Journal of Virology that defects in th
HIV nef gene may prevent disease prc
gression in some HIV-infected patient:
Dr. Arrigo Benedetto of Spallanzar
Institute-IRCCS in Rome and colleague
analyzed the case of long-term non-prc
gressor and found that the patier
showed deletions in the nef-alone an
the nef/U3 overlapping regions. Th
patient, who has been HIV seropositiv
for 13 years, showed CD4 T cell count
greater than 1000 cells/microliter and a
absence of HIV-1 RNA in the periphera
mononuclear cells. The researchers sug
gest that a nef defect may be sufficient i
determining non-progressive condition
in some HIV-infected individuals.

"Flow Cytometry Offers Hope for Better Treatment"

AIDS Alert (04/98) Vol.13, No. 4, P. 44

Bruce Patterson, a molecular virologis
and assistant professor at Northeaster
University, has designed a technique fc
identifying in-cell viral load that ma
compliment or supplant traditional plas
ma viral-load testing. Called ultrasens
tive in situ hybridization, the test utilize
flowcytometry to accurately measur
how many viral particles a cell is produc
ing. With this in-cell viral load techniqu
researchers are able to identify specifica
ly which cells are producing the viru
even in cases where only five to 10 cope
of virus are manufactured per cell. Th
test employs antibodies and fluorescer
dyes to locate and tag up to three type
of cells per test. The technique, whic
also provides CD4 counts, is likely t
change the way clinicians approach trea
ment regimens, since viral kinetics var
between cell types and viral productio
changes may now be predicted prior to
viral load increase. Earlier detection c
the virus may follow, since the test is nc
solely dependent on measuring bloo
Presently, the test is only available fo
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of the tests is expected to commenc
soon in the United States.

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Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah & Virginia

States that criminalize anal/oral sex only between partner of the same gender.

Arkansas, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas

States that have no statute regarding sodomy:

Alaska, California, Connecticute, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakotam Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming

States that have antidiscrimination laws based on sexual orientation:

California, Colorado (on;y covers public employment), Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Wisconsin

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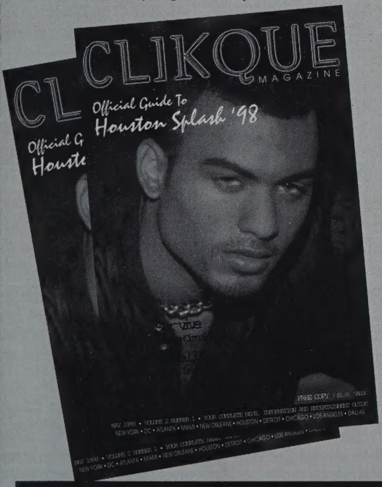

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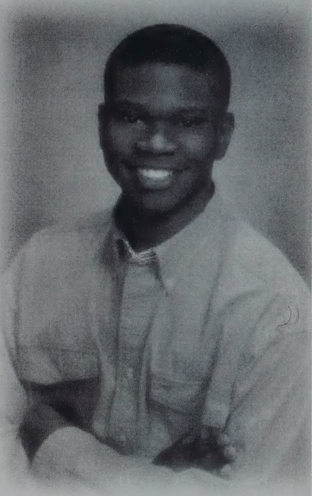
Article Submitted By Oscar Franklyn, Graduate of Florida A&M University, 19

Awakening

Black, Educated, Out, and Unemployed

How do you cope?



As a twenty-two year old black male about to graduate, I am looking forward to working and earning a living.

I've done my time in school for now, but eventually I plan to pursue graduate school. My resume is impressive, I'm articulate, and for the first time in my life, I look forward to living my life as a gay professional.

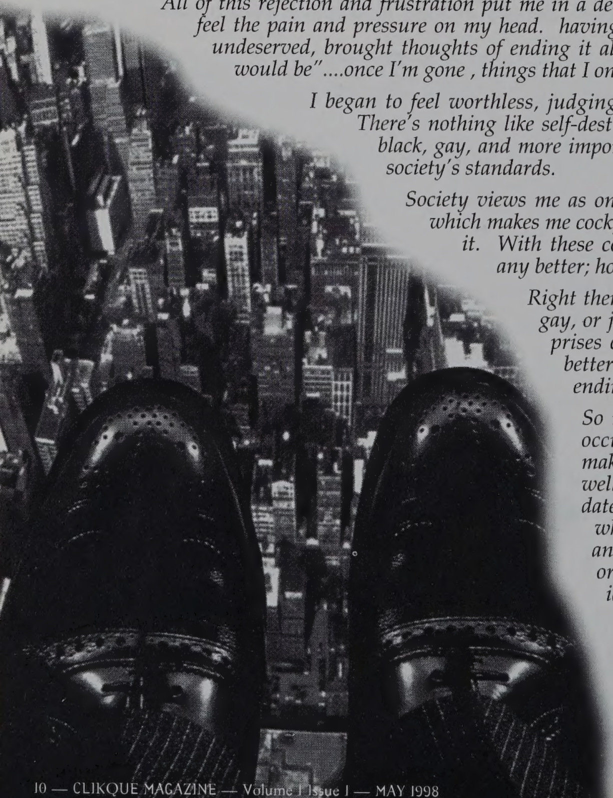
Like so many others in this situation, I imagined a wonderful life. With a college degree almost in hand, I felt the world was mine for the taking. Hey, I had the magical piece of paper that would open all doors to me.

So to prepare myself for the transition into the job market, I began interviewing with reputable companies; companies that would afford me the opportunity to continue my academic and professional development. After the interviews, I received positive feedback from the companies, and on most occasions, was invited back for a second interview.

My excitement escalated as I waited to hear from these companies. I thought my only problem would be decidi which offer to accept. Wrong! As a matter of fact, to date, I don't have one offer, nor do I have an explanation as why. Surely, after having 15 interviews and more than five site visits, I'd get at least one job offer.

Well, after plan "A" failed, I moved on to plan "B." Plan "B" consisted of my networking and calling people in hi places who I thought could help me with my job search. Wrong again! No one was able to help.

Disillusioned, suddenly my opinion of Corporate America began to change. I realized that Corporate America w full of bull-shit, and I was getting my share.



All of this rejection and frustration put me in a deep depression. A depression so thick until I cou feel the pain and pressure on my head. having to deal with circumstances I deemed unfair, a undeserved, brought thoughts of ending it all to my mind. I thought to myself, "how easy would be"....once I'm gone , things that I once thought urgent and important would be bygo

I began to feel worthless, judging my self-worth, and second guessing my belie There's nothing like self-destruction and I felt the need to self-destruct. Bei black, gay, and more importantly jobless, made me feel worthless; at least society's standards.

Society views me as one to be feared because I'm a black educated ma which makes me cocky (they say). Additionally, I'm gay and open abo it. With these colorful attributes, I didn't perceive things getti any better; how could they?

Right then, almost miraculously, I realized that being blac gay, or jobless defined me as a person. My existence co prises of more than that. Believing this, I began to fe better. However, let's be realistic, I do need a job, b ending my life because I don't have on is senseless.

So many of us forget who we are and think it's o occupations: teacher, accountant, chemist, etc., th makes us. But those are just skills we've learned to well and in some instances, master. They do not va date our existence. Then what am I? I am someo who has survived. All of what I want to be in li and ever will be, is with me now. No degree, positi or amount of money validate my self-worth. I'm va idated by survival....I'm still standing!

I no longer perceive my circumstances of bei black, gay, and out, as being a curse. The things comprise me....a strong black educat man who happens to be gay. Being unemploy is a temporary setback. Being Black is a honor, and being OUT is PRIDE! Life is st going to be wonderful.

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 1998

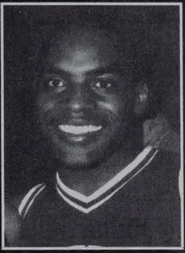
- Harlem United Show House presents Open House: African American Interior Design Showcase to be held June 5, 1998 to July 3, 1998 459 W. 141st St., New York, NY. 718-636-8078. millynneum@aol.com
- Womyn of All Colors and Cultures Together presents Brunch #64 to be held June 7, 1998 Chicago, IL. 773-784-8922.
- Sister SummerFest presents Women of Color Music, Spirit Festival to be held June 12, 1998 to June 14, 1998 Washington, DC. 202-546-5909. imodupe@hotmail.com
- Black Boyz Production presents The Mack: Safer-Sex Party to be held June 19, 1998 at 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. $15. 1919 W. Greenleaf, Chicago, IL. 773-918-5139.
- OBGLTPride Inc. presents First Annual Black Gay, Lesbian, Transgender Pride Celebration to be held June 19, 1998 to June 21, 1998 Oakland, CA. 510- 268-0646, 510-832-0847 fax.
- Gay Men of African Descent presents Seventh Annual Fashion Show to be held June 20, 1998 $20. Twirl, 208 W. 23rd St., New York, NY. 212-414-9344. gmad@aol.com
- Men of All Colors Together/New York presents Annual Sunset Cruise to be held June 23, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. $20. Circle Line Pier 83, W. 42nd St., New York, NY. 212-330-7678.
- National Women's Music Festival presents 24th Annual Festival featuring, among others, Voices of Africa to be held June 25, 1998 to June 28, 1998 Ball State University, Muncie, IN. 317-927-9355. wia@indy.net CA. 888-922-2916. magicmarc@aol.com
- Drive to the Rocks '98 presents 1998 Black Gay Pride Celebration to be held June 28, 1998 Chicago, IL. 773-384-4356.

JULY 1998

- At The Beach presents Opening Reception and Art Exhibit to be held July 1, 1998 to July 5, 1998 Free. Westin Airport Hotel, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB. atbla@aol.com
- At The Beach presents Black Tie Dinner to be held July 2, 1998 $100. Westin Airport Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB. atbla@aol.com
- At The Beach presents BBQ and Beer Bust to be held July 3, 1998 $10. Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB. atbla@aol.com
- At the Beach presents 10th Annual Beach Party: "Underwater Elegance" to be held July 4, 1998 at 7 a.m. to Dusk $10 park, free shuttle. Point Dume Beach, Malibu, CA. 213-969-1619. atbla@aol.com
- At The Beach presents Official After Party to be held July 4, 1998 at 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. $10 with membership or armband. Westin Airport Hotel, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB.
* At The Beach presents Gay and Lesbian Film Festival to be held July 5, 1998 $10. Westin Airport Hotel, Theater, 5400 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 213-293-4ATB. atbla@aol.com
- Adodi/Chicago presents Summer Retreat to be held July 17, 1998 to July 19, 1998 Detroit, MI. 215-276-2662. adodiphila@aol.com
- National Association of Black and White Men Together presents National Convention: "Rainbow on the Horizon" to be held July 21, 1998 to July 25, 1998 $85-$135. Holiday Inn Galleria on the Beach, Fort Lauderdale, FL. 1-800- NA4BWMT. sfbwmt@aol.com
- Richmond/Ermet Foundation presents Help is on the Way IV: a show benefitting, among others, the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention to be held July 27, 1998 Palace of Fine Arts Theater, San Francisco, CA. 415-356-8100. ntfap@aol.com

GOSSIPING

A Dangerous Habit



Article Submitted By
Shannon Vinson-Linzy
Houston, Texas

"What's the Tea bitch?" How many times have you picked up the phone and called an acquaintance and asked this question? I think we all are guilty of doing so at least once, for some it's many more than that.

Why do we as human beings feel the need to manifest ourselves through the happenings of other peoples lives? Constantly, I find myself being approached by people asking me if I heard why so and so is in jail, and did I know that this person wrote checks and what about this person sleeping with that other person's lover.

Often I imagine a world in which people just live there lives and do what they are supposed to do while not caring about how other people live there lives. This makes me think of something I heard Oprah Winfrey say "God did not put you on this earth to worry about that". If we all followed this simple statement, we'd all be better off. True enough, we may be less informed, but just think about how much simpler your life would be. No one could ever say you started some mess with a statement you made and you'd never be caught in the middle of some he said, she said. I remember during my freshman year in High School, my English teacher wrote a statement on the chalk board and said if you live be this sentence, your life will be so much better. That statement, "In the chain of gossip I will be the missing link" sticks with me to this day. For the most part, I've been fairly successful at sticking to this, although I, just like you, enjoy the once in a while indulgence of the often sordid details of someone else's life.

While this may all be done in jest and with the attempt to keep everyone informed; gossip can have an adverse effect as well. A series of recent events that occurred within my household confirms this statement. Recently, an acquaintance of one of my roommates took it upon himself to repeatedly take the details of what he saw and heard while visiting my home to his friends. In the process of not minding his own business he caused a lot of stress, strife and grief. I didn't speak to my bestfriend for almost a week mainly because of things this intruder had told others. Not to say that he intentionally set out to cause trouble between my bestfriend and I, because that wasn't his agenda. His agenda was to make himself look good to someone my roommate is dating. It seems as if this person had his eye on the same person and was willing to do what it took, at all costs. The funny thing is that, he didn't succeed at what he set out to do; but in the process he put a strain on a friendship that is so important to me as well as a strain on the household (I have two roommates) in it's entirety. We can now laugh at his deceipt, trickery and looseness of the lips, because we learned a valuable lesson. As a result our friendship is stronger and the next time, although highly unlikely, someone infiltrates our "network" with a malicious intent; that person will not be successful, in fact, he/she should be prepared for a serious physical and mental beat down!

Rande Rochelle

The Making Of A Ledgend

A true diva lives in our midst, but one would never know, unless someone told you it was so. A rising star and a true friend of the people is Houston's Rande Rochelle. Having been a staple in the entertainment industry for years Rande's story is an interesting one. So here!

Born Joseph Semien some thirty two years ago in Layfayette, Louisana, Rande is proud to have the support of his family which is very difficult for gay people today. " My mom found a letter when I was 16 years old and said she always knew but was waiting for me to tell her." Since then, Rande and his mom have been best friends and his entire family has accepted him.

A very sexual person, Rande admits to not having had sex in a very long time, partly because he is waiting for a good man and his line of work does not make it very easy. Rande appears in drag about 40 percent of the time but this, many men find to be a turn off. The gorgeous Rochelle is not bothered though, as he is a good looking man in and out of drag.

Having done the acting straight thing, Randy is very comfortable with his sexuality and when asked, how old was he when he first had sex, he blushed revealing cute dimples and a very pretty smile. His answer was equally fierce as he retorted, " For this interview, shall we say I started when I was eighteen. " Rande went to his first Gay club when he was only twelve years old, and started doing drag at an employee show at Studio 13." I did Patty Labelle's You Turn Me On". Rochelle describes this event as an exhilarating one which made a big impact on his career.

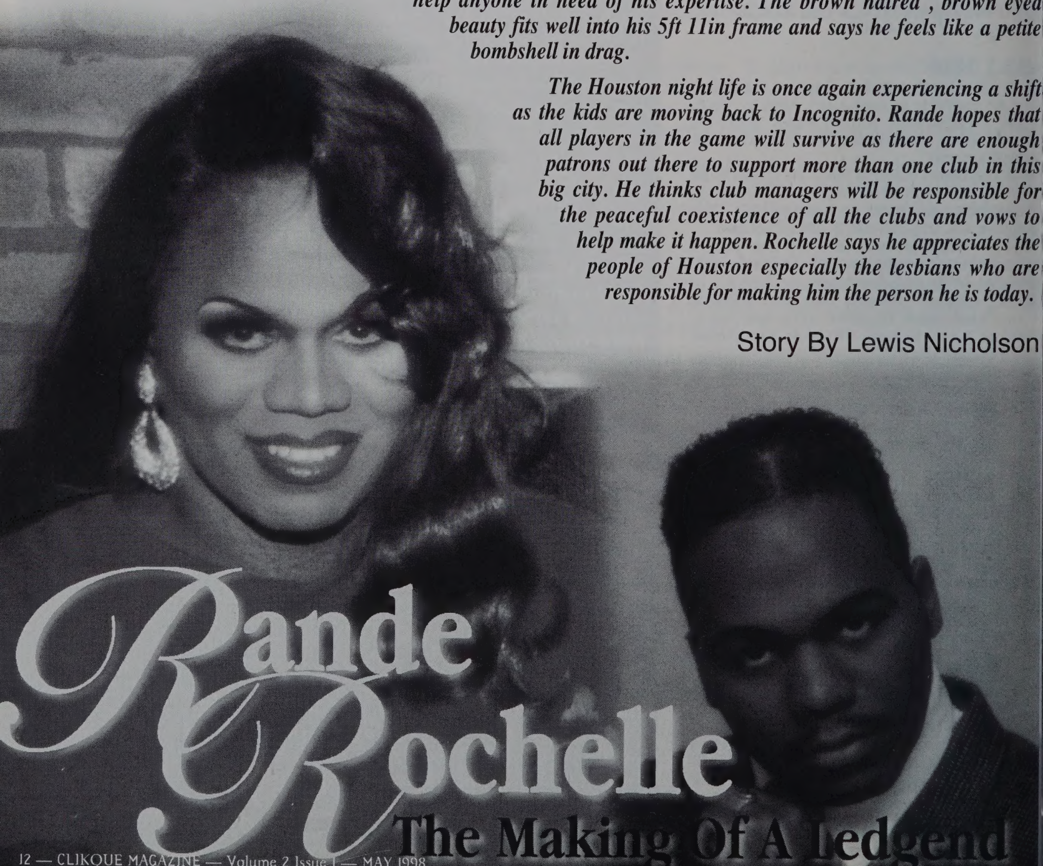
Speaking on the subject of his popularity, Rande says he is amazed at the way people flock to his events. But if you ever attended a Rochelle party you would understand why. The cutest people always show up and the line up of entertainers is always flawless. According to one of his fans Rande is popular because he is a people person and the dates are always at his functions.

Rande is a pretty spiritual person and thanks God everyday for his many blessings. Rande has performed in Texas, Georgia and Louisiana and other southern states but feels like Atlanta would be a nice place to live because there are tons of business opportunities there for him.

Currently employed at Incognito The Club as the Entertainment Director Rochelle says, "It takes three people to be me, as I am always trying to be a part of something. I feel like I will miss something if I am not there" and we understand why. Rande is involved in many projects and is always willing to help anyone in need of his expertise. The brown haired , brown eyed beauty fits well into his 5ft 11in frame and says he feels like a petite bombshell in drag.

The Houston night life is once again experiencing a shift as the kids are moving back to Incognito. Rande hopes that all players in the game will survive as there are enough patrons out there to support more than one club in this big city. He thinks club managers will be responsible for the peaceful coexistence of all the clubs and vows to help make it happen. Rochelle says he appreciates the people of Houston especially the lesbians who are responsible for making him the person he is today.

Story By Lewis Nicholson



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MAY '98

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The Story Behind

Houston Splash '98

Houston Splash is taking the Party circuit by storm with the biggest anticipated attendance in its history. Atlanta DC and LA had better watch out for here comes Houston.

Splash in Houston has a rich history and heritage of which little has been made known.The first party held in May 1998 was hosted by Cookie La Cook the dinosaur of Hostesses who is still the unstoppable, undeniably best host this side of the Mason Dixon border. What is now known as "Houston Splash" began over twenty years ago as a largely white gay day at the beach that was traditionally held on the first Sunday of May. As the times changed and folks started dropping Drakkar for Izzy Myake and Flannel shirts were replaced by Donna Karan knit sweaters, the mainly white audience gave way to a more colorful melanin laden bunch. Eventually, the first Sunday in May became a largely black gay day at Stewart Beach.

In 1988 the premier Drag Fest and trade party was held on Sunday, May 5, 1988 at the El Mina Shrine temple. The head honchos of that first Galveston Beach Party were Tony Powell, Ricky Thurmond, Dwight Branch, C. David Pollard, and Ms. Jacobie.

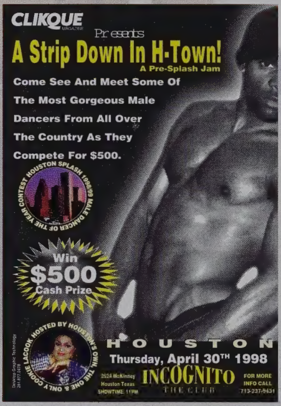
Over the years the event has featured such entertainers as Tommie Ross, Socca Simone, Lawanda Jackson, Victoria Prince, Christy Coleman, Ebony Carrington, Shinique Shivon, Amazing Grace and many others.
In February of 1996 Derick Miles and Cliff Hunter, Co-owners of Incognito, The Club, A major black gay club in Houston formed Houston Splash™. Houston Splash has grown from being a southern event to a national event with the New York kids playing a major role this year. For a comprehensive list of all the Official Houston Splash events visit the website at http://www.houstonsplash.com or see their ad in this issue of Clikque Magazine. We encourage you to keep this issue of Clikque Magazine as it is the official comprehensive guide to all Houston Splash events.

Houston Splash Committee: Cliff Hunter, President; Derick Miles, vice-president; Tony Powell, Music Director; Rande Rochelle, Special Projects Director; Cookie LaCook, Entertainment Director and Apples, Web Master. Sponsors of this year's Houston Splash events includes: Clikque Magazine, U-Men-U-Sweat, Incognito - The Club, ITC Productions, Cookie LaCook and Company, Another Rande Rochelle Production, Bla-Tino, Southwest Airlines, AVIS, Holiday Inn, The Harvey Suites, and The Tides II.

By: Lewis Nicholson

Houston

Official Events of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HOUSTON
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2524 McKinney
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FOR MORE INFO CALL 713-237-9431
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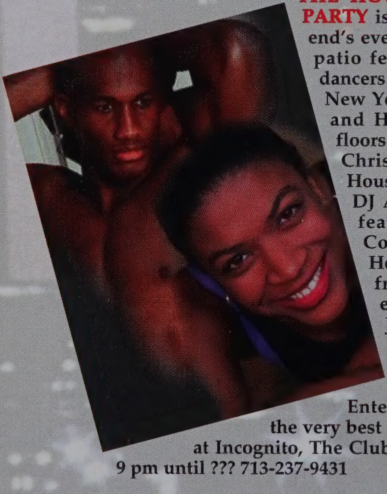
Thursday, April 30th

PRE-SPLASH STRIP DOWN IN H-TOWN We are bold to unfold, for we have struck gold, where go-go gods will meet to shock and compete. No weak hearts or excessive emotions, just be there at yet another Clikque Magazine Promotion

The Battle of the South (Another Clikque Event) was fierce, now come see the national go-go war as twenty-plus hot men compete for $500 cash. Event to be held at Incognito, The Club, 2524 McKinney at Live Oak, from 9 pm until. Showtime: 11PM Call 713-237-9431 for more info.

Friday, May 1st

THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 WELCOMING RECEPTION is hosted by Houston Splash, Incognito The Club and Clikque magazine and features FREE entry, FREE Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Located at Holiday Inn - Medical Center, 6701 S. Main St., from 6 pm - 9 pm.



THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 KICK-OFF PARTY is designed to kick-off all the weekend's events and it does it with a bang. The patio features some of the hottest male dancers in the country, with dancers from New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Dallas and Houston. Plus, THREE dance floors featuring DJ Dee - Houston, DJ Chris - Los Angeles, DJ Tony Powell - Houston, DJ Fred Pierce - New York and DJ Apples - Houston. The main room features a fabulous show hosted by Cookie LaCook with the best of Houston's local talent plus hot names from around the country. Featured entertainers include: Tommie Ross, Jasmine Bonet, Tasty, Big Yo, Double Impact, Chauncy Davenport and Betty Nealy along with the finest Female Entertainers Dallas has to offer. Plus, the very best of Houston's female talent. Located at Incognito, The Club, 2524 McKinney at Live Oak, from 9 pm until ??? 713-237-9431

Saturday, Ma

THE HOUSTON SPLA
PRIDE FESTIVAL feature
booths, cards, dominoes,
fun! There is also a specia
4:00 pm featuring "The
Diva Extravaganza" with
Brooks, Chanel Nicole,
Lawanda Jackson, Niesl
Victoria Prince, José Alex
Davenport, No Limit Solo
Porsche Paris, Jasmine Bo
Texas Teasers, Nikki Foste
Alicia Kelly and the Chicag
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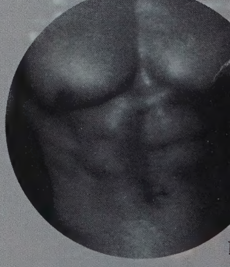

This Spread Is A Paid Advertisement Taken Out By The Houston Splash Committee.

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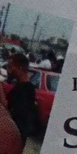
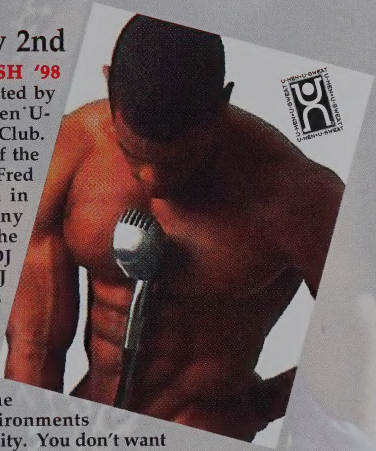
Pride Festival 98



Saturday, May 2nd

THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 PRE-BEACH BASH is hosted by Houston Splash, U-Men'U-Sweat and Incognito, The Club. This is the biggest party of the weekend. It features DJ Fred Pierce from the Octagon in New York and DJ Tony Powell from Incognito, The Club in Houston. Plus DJ Apples from Houston, DJ Chris from Los Angeles and DJ Derrick from Houston. Also featured are Male and Female dancers, one of the largest dance floors in the city, multiple sound environments and the best drinks in the city. You don't want to miss this one. Located at the Hangar, on the corner of Roberts and Polk - 6 blocks from Incognito. From 8 pm until ???



Sunday, May 3rd

THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 BEACH PARTY features dancing, a swimwear contest for Male, Female and Drag, plus a hot show at 6:00 pm. Entertainers include Tijuana Brooks, Chanel Nicole, Big Yo, Lawanda Jackson, Niesha Dupree, Jasmine Bonet, Kelexis Davenport, Flame Monroe, Chevelle Brooks, Porsche Paris, Chauncey Davenport, Tasty, Diamond Deliante, The Texas Teasers and Tommie Ross. Your hosts are Cookie LaCook and Otis Mack. This is a great way to cool down after the Beach. Located in Galveston at the El Mina Shrine Temple @ 5500 Seawall Blvd. in Galveston, Between 55th and 56th Street. From 4 pm until 10 pm. 713-237-0029.

PLASH-DOWN AT INCOGNITO is sponsored by Houston Splash, Incognito, the
lub and ITC Productions. If you still have some party left in you after Galveston, you can splash-down at
ncognito. There is a special show at midnight featuring Big Yo, Victoria Prince, Lawanda Jackson, Niesha
Dupree, José Alexander, Sophia Macintosh, Jasmine Bonet, Alexis Vandinhurst, Chauncy Davenport, Flame
Monroe, Tommie Ross, Alecia Kelly, , Nikki Foster and Tiffany Brooks. Cookie LaCook is your host. Plus,
there is dancing on the Patio and in the main room before and after the show. Located at Incognito, The
Club, 2524 McKinney at Live Oak, from 10 pm until ??? 713-297-9431

Monday, May 4th

THE HOUSTON SPLASH '98 FAREWELL PARTY sponsored by Houston Splash, Clikque Magazine and
Incognito, The Club features Incognito's Hot Bodies Revue, a tantalizing floor show featuring Hot Male and
emale Bodies. Hosted by Cookie LaCook, this show is always a favorite. Plus special guest Rande Rochelle.
ted at Incognito, The Club, 2524 McKinney at Live Oak from 9 pm until ??? 713-237-9431

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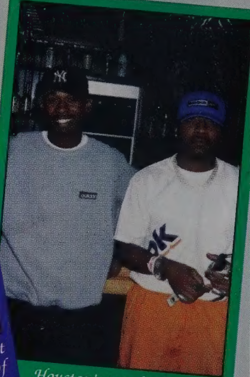
SCENE QUEEN

Clikque Magazine's Scene Queen Just Came Back From Her Monthly Excursion o

Houston's own Tiffany Brooks performer Extraordinaire

The Publishers of Clikque Magazine are in search of this DC Mugler Carter (face). Call ASAP!.

The Atlanta Diva - Jasmine Bonet strutting her stuff at the Battle of the South. Houston, TX

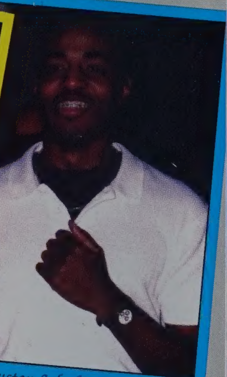


Houston's two leading male performers: Montel A. & Chauncey D.

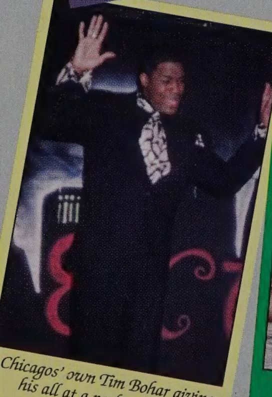
Birthday girl Shirley at Club Extreme - Houston, TX

Club Promoter/Manager emcees Talen Night Fanals at Rascals. Houston, TX

Feeling Cuntee Kevin Aviance of New Yorks' Escuelita.



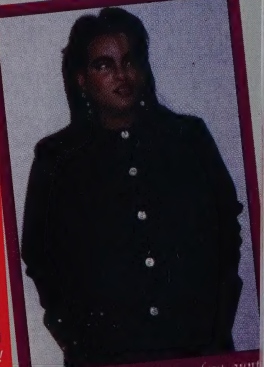
Houston Splash™ VP and Co-owner of Incognito-The Club at Club Extreme. Houston, TX.



Chicagos' own Tim Bohar giving his all at a performance in Houston, TX

Chicago 's runway diva Ameilla Black-Prada and Houston's song bird Nichole Roberts.

Taste and deeeeleshus - it's Big Yo! Actually paying her way to the club, isn't that a shame? Houston.

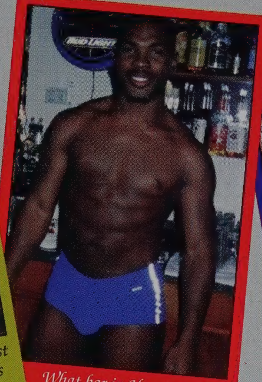


Mother to all, father to a few, aunt to many, it's the talented and civic minded Rayceen. Washington, D.C

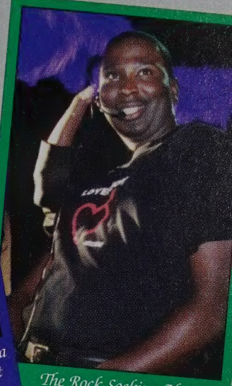
SCENE QUEEN

Night Club Tours Across America. Look What She Has Brought

The Voluptuous Alexis vanderhurst flooring the crowd at the Rascals Talent Finals. Houston, TX


What bar in Houston is CJ tending these days?

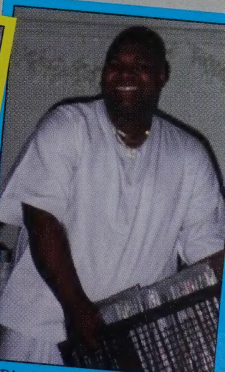
Former Miss Black Universe Sasha Valentino letting the kids have it on an excursion down south.


The Rock Socking Always Serving Legendary commentator Jack Mizrahi. DC

Houston's Cookie LaCook, always spilling the tea, this girl knows how to get paid.

Looks who's back. Dallas Promoter and Club Extreme manager, Romaldo giving face.

It doesn't get any better than this. Niesha Dupree Atlanta's Miss USA at Large.


District House Mother, Sedrick spins the kids in a frenzy. Washington, D.C.

Petite Porsche Paris Pleases People all the time. At a recent performance in Houston, TX.

It's face! It's Carter! It's the Ledgendary House of Mugler. It's Whitney! It's Fred! It's Ovah.

Or if I could serve face like this, I wouldn't need a job.

Sexy Stascha Sanchez subtly we the audience like a true Atlan diva that she is.

HOUSTON Texas

Story By Dwight Powell.

Clikque Magazine welcomes you to Houston splash a city of great discovery, Houston offers tremendous contrasts with something for everyone. One of the world's greatest urban centers and the largest city in Texas as well as the fourth-largest city in the U.S., Houston has no match.

The capital of the international energy industry, Houston is also home to the world's largest medical center, a global nexus for life-changing innovations in medicine. Houston is one of the countries premier visual and performing arts centers, a pioneer in multicultral arts and a leading showcase for contemporary commercial architecture.

Houston is a thoroughly international city, and 65 nations have established consular offices here. The diverse population of the city is matched only by that of Los Angeles and New York. In fact, over 4.1 million people of more than 100 different nationalities speaking more than 90 languages call this mighty metropolis home. Known as the "Bayou City," Houston's cultural diversity, growing economy, medical facilities, shopping and entertainment venues offer excitement for all who choose to live or play in Texas' largest city.

At the city's urban core, the downtown Theater District shimmers with the talent of the countries most innovative performing arts companies. Home to more gold culinary awards than any other U.S. city, Houston boasts over 7,000 restaurants, elevating dining to the status of art.

Although Houston's night life can't be compared to the likes of New York, D.C. or Atlanta, there are places to go were you can have a great time. Just be prepared, we do things a little different down here. Since most of us are not very aggressive, we like to people-watch, however, we welcome your approach... but you must come correct. Our music is a little different, but ooh do we love to dance. Incognito - The Club, Rascals, and Club Extreme are three of the more popular clubs in Houston.

Annual events chronicle its international flare, including the Fiestas Patrias which celebrates Mexico's independence from Spain, The Houston International Festival, and Cinco de Mayo festivities.

Consisting of 40% of the cities population African-Americans have a rich history here. Houston is home to Shrine of the Black Madonna -- one of the largest African-American bookstores in the United States. Asian communities have skyrocketed with a Chinatown environment and the Di Ho area along Bellaire Boulevard.

Enjoy your stay here and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Here's What We Recommend

Where To Go?

Shopping/Malls

SharpstownMall - 281-875-6255
Greens Point Malls - 281-875-6255
Galleria - 713-622-0663

Restaurants

This Is It — 713-659-1608
Reggae Hut — 713-524-2905

Night Clubs / Bars

Extreme — 281-564-1000
Incognito — 713-237-9431
Rascals — 713-942-CLUB

Bookstores

Shrine of the Black Madonna
713-524-2905
Crossroads Market
713-942-0147

Attraction

Six Flags — 713-799-1234

Record Stores

Soundwaves — 713-660-8333

COME AND VISIT HOUSTON'S NEWEST NIGHT CLUB

EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 1

Dance Jam
f/ The Dallas Assassins
Exotic Dancers
Club Extreme 9PM — 4AM

SATURDAY MAY 2

BBQ Pool Party And A
Male & Female Swimsuit
Contest. f/Exotic Dancers
Days Inn — 1PM
Medical Ctr. — 713.523.3777

Splash Dance Party
f/ Exotic Dancers
Club Extreme 9PM — 4AM

Pajama Party After Party
Days Inn — 3AM - 7AM
Medical Ctr. — 713.523.3777

SUNDAY MAY 3

Farewell Celebration
f/ The Dallas Assassins
Club Extreme 9PM — 4AM

ENTERTAINERS

Tara • Kisa • P.J. • Rieman • Jode Malone • Chanel St. John • Christie • Ruby • Nikki FosterStrawberry Poision • Tasty • Silky • Suave 12 Inch & Many More!

EMCEE — BETTY NEAL

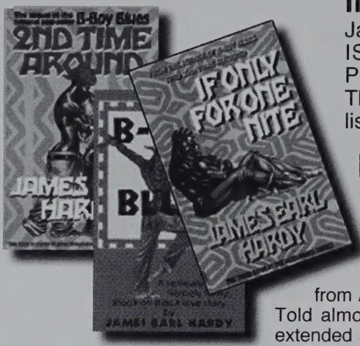
Club Extreme
NITE CLUB

11670 S.W. FREEWAY (WILCREST @ HWY. 59
281.564.1000
HOURS: 9PM - 4AM

DESIGNED BY:
DWIGHT POWELL
DESKTOP GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY
281-877-0478

WE'VE GOT ONE OF THE LARGEST NIGHT CLUBS IN HOUSTON

THE BOOK STAND



If Only for One Nite

James Earl Hardy Pub. Price $11.95 B&N Price: $9.56
ISBN#: 1555834671 Publisher: Alyson Pub Format: Paperback
Publication Date: May 1998
This book is currently on order, however it will not ship until the publisher's release date.

REVIEW & COMMENTARY

From Publisher's Weekly:
"How many licks does it take to get to the Tootsie Roll center of my Tootsie Pop? I don't know, but keep on bastin' and tastin' it wit that special sauce, and I'm sure you'll find out!" Amour fou gets a new twist in the third novel from African American gay novelist Hardy (B-Boy Blues and Second Time Around). Told almost entirely in flashbacks, the story centers on narrator Mitchell Crawford's extended affair with his preternaturally beautiful high-school gymnastics coach. Hardy's exuberant "b-boy" writing is best suited to the bedroom (and bathroom, locker room, gym, etc.) Often it descends into sloppy sentimentality, as witnessed in his attempt at a high-school valedictory speech. And, as usual, his work is free of complex moral reasoning: he condemns a sexually predatory preacher for the same behavior that he celebrates in the gym coach, the only discernible difference being that the coach is the better looking of the two men. Reckless, thoughtless, facile as it is, given the paucity of African American gay erotic writing, it is not difficult to fathom the popularity of Hardy's books. Author tour. (Sept.) -Publisher's Weekly

FROM THE PUBLISHER:

Mitchell Crawford attends his high school reunion - and faces his past, present, and future all at once. In addition to catching up with his classmates, he also sees the man who broke his heart. Warren Reid was Mitchell's gymnastics coach. Warren turned Mitchell, a student who detested all types of sports, into a statewide champion - and during that two years of training and triumph, they were lovers. For Mitchell, the affair was everything he had dreamed it could be - and Warren was all that he, an anxious and horny teenager just beginning to formulate a gay identity, wished for in a man. Warren was his first love, and like those naive and inexperienced in the game of love, Mitchell expected it to last forever. So he was more than a little hurt when, after he graduated, Warren dumped him, explaining, "I was not in love with you. How could I be? You're just a kid." With this painful memory, Mitchell argues to himself and others (including his lover of one year, Raheim "Pooquie" Rivers) that he couldn't possibly have any feelings for Warren. But all those feelings come rushing back on reunion night. Now 44, Warren's still got it goin' on: a regal six foot two, a solid 225 pounds, and, despite a few gray hairs on his head, a wrinkle-free, youthful face. Mitchell's best friend, B. D. (Barry Daniels, a.k.a. Brain Dense), warns Mitchell, "Good Black don't crack," and that despite his love for Raheim, he may find Warren too irresistible. And as he and Warren exchange flirtatious glances and talk through the night, Mitchell does. Naturally, Warren senses Mitchell's defense weaken and makes his move. Will Mitchell fall for his charms - and be the same fool twice?

Gossip Mill

THE GOSSIP MILL - MAY 1998
BY: THE LEGENDARY KEVIN ULTRA OMNI

Listen up kids...

....Be forewarned that we will premier our Gossip Mill Section next month. So, for heavensake, keep your house in order, or else we will have to do it for you!

Be Careful Who You Talk To!

Tea, It Does A Body Good!

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

You are a very trying and needy soul. Your intentions are honorable but you love too deeply and too strongly, too soon. That new crush in your life needs some breathing space, so ease up on the fellow or gal. For those of you in relationships, give your lover some room to breathe. Go shopping this month and this time buy your love something instead of spending all of the money on your self.

TAURUS

You stubborn bulls need to stop. Give that child who has been chasing you a chance. If he/she is a cancer you were meant to be, so settle down and buy a house. If he is a Pisces grab your purse and run because he is nothing but a player with a multitude of tricks under his belt.

GEMINI

Oh sweet precious one. This month will be one filled with sex for you. Everyone will find you irresistible including that gorgeous boy who vacuums your office. Play safe and have them all. It is not very often that you get to be the star.

CANCER

Take a break from the Soap Opera that has become your life. It is a very badly written one but because of your star qualities once again you are playing the lead. This month you will finally let go of that old flame who really does not want you and you will meet tons of Mister and Miss right nows. Have fun playing the field.

LEO

You are strong willed and usually right on the money. This month all your cards if played with caution will bring you big dividends. An Aquarius will fall madly in love with you and my take on this is for you to run to the altar. Work it gyrll.

VIRGO

You are anal but a very good person. Finally the right person is going to take notice. Your night in shining armor will show up and sweep you off your feet. Buy that gown you have been dreaming of and get you some Prada pumps to go with it. I hear wedding bells.

LIBRA

Pay up your debts to your friends and society. Stop pretending to be a compromising soul because we all know that you are self serving. This month will bring you lots of luck so play the lottery on the 15th of the month.

SCORPIO

You are the town whore and every body knows it but you. Stop playing miss goody two shoes because your act is very transparent. You are so lovable that this month many hearts will be broken as you continue to date a circle of friends. Get all the home furnishings you need because if anyone knows how to get unsuspecting men to buy you things it is you.

SAGITTARIUS

This is your month to shine so accept that Tiara and strut your stuff like the true queen that you are. Men will be falling all over you so don't be silly and chose those who are up to no good. The one with the gold tooth is a no- no and the one with the gut needs to join a gym. The others are fair game, do them all, two per night.

CAPRICORN

Like my daddy you are a tramp and the only freak in town. However this month you are about to be tamed by a cancerian with a million dollar smile and the body of a Greek God. Enjoy his kindness and off the hook sex while it lasts because he too needs a lot of attention.

AQUARIUS

You have finally fallen in love and you and your man are like glue. Enjoy! Those still single are hereby advised to lighten up and catch that prince while he is passing by. Don't wait until ,he has gone home with your ex because then it will be too late. Your ex is no good and the boy wont want anything to do with either of you he has your ex first.

PISCES

Your roaming soul will eventually find a place to rest. Your multiple boyfriends and dates will soon be narrowed down to one. Take my advice and make sure it is the right one. They are sometimes hard to spot but that is only because you are too demanding and you always feel like the grass is greener on the other side. It is not. Try dating an ex whom you stll find attractive.

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All of the ads in this magazine were created by Desktop Graphic Technology. We would be honored to create one for you. Call Us Today!

Ask Bianca

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,1200 Mckinney St. Suite # 411-101, Houston Texas 77010.
Or email her C/o Clikquem@aol.com

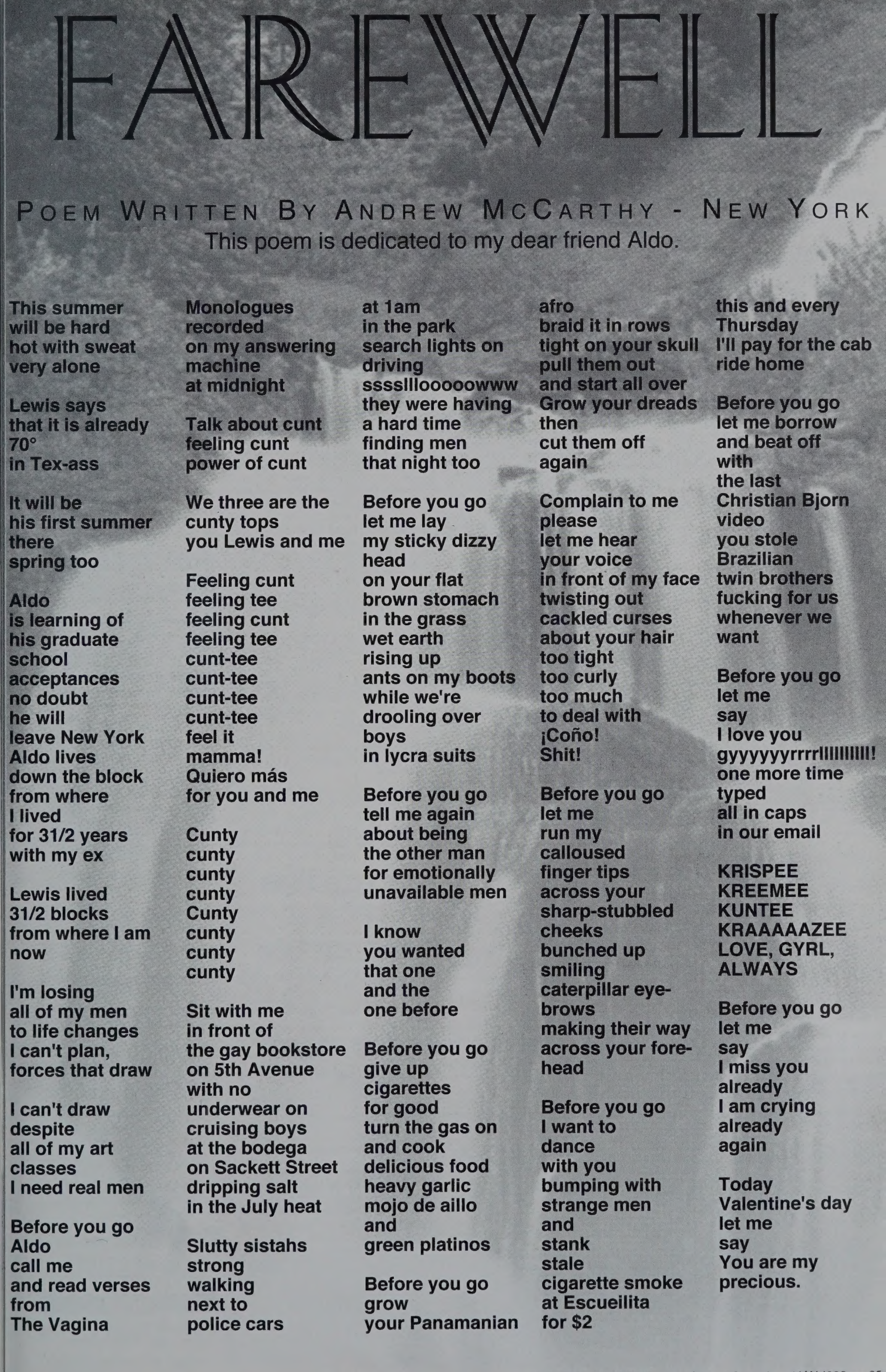
Hello kids,
Welcome back to Axk (Ask) Bianca here at Clikque Magazine. I really enjoyed my time spent in Jail and gyrlls let me tell you. I had every man there in the palms of my hands and I mean that literally. I went in a gyrll and came out a muscle bound hunkasaurus. My boyfriends love the new me. One claims that there is nothing better than screwing a real man. I never thought of myself as a real man but, what ever! I am pleased to announce that I am no longer on crack and I rarely use speed anymore. My new best friend is miss Betty Ford and I met Monica Lewinsky on my way from court one day. Now I am filing a case against the president because I was told that he was trying to make a pass on my picture as he was going through my FBI files one day. Anyway I am happy to be back and this month I am responding to two of your letters written before I was carted off to the Island ...(Rikers) in that nice blue and white carriage driven by two of New York's finest. Oh, by the way I moved to Houston with the Publishers of this rag but I am going to run right back to New York if I don't get that man from over on Harwin drive to commit to being my number one boyfriend.

Dear Bianka,
I am a 27yr-old black successful male. I've been dating my girl for 4 years and we are planning on getting married this June. Recently at the gym, I was propositioned by a guy and I told him I did not swing that way. However, I have been thinking about him ever since. I love my girl with all my heart but I have been having dreams about that dude. Bianka does this mean I am attracted to guys? What should I do. Do I tell my future wife? Damn, why is life so confusing.
Dreaming of biceps.

Dear Dreaming of biceps,
You need to come to terms with your self. I don't believe for a minute that this is the first time that you have found yourself thinking about dick. Do you think straight men who are propositioned by other men find themselves thinking about men from there on? Lies! I am afraid that you should take this guy up on his offer if you haven't already and have yourself a good time in the bulging biceps of another man. Trust me on this, it feels real good. You do not love your girl with all your heart because there is no such thing. You need to tell her that you find a man attractive and that her biceps are not big enough. Tell her to find a straight man, even though he won't be as good as you are in bed. About your being attracted to guys, do you really need my advice? If you are not attracted to guys then I don't know what your obsession is with this man's biceps. By the power invested in me I now declare you a full fledged faggot.

Dearest Bianka,
Recently my boyfriend was hospitalized. Although I never asked, he volunteered to me that while he was in the hospital he tested negative for HIV. Three days ago I was in his house reading a magazine and there was a letter in it from his physician stating that he was positive for the HIV virus. I feel betrayed because he lied to me and I didn't ask in the first place. I will support him no matter what. Should I tell him that I know? What should I do?
Dazed and confused
Chicago, Illinois.

Now, Miss Gyrll in Illinois,
You Midwestern kids slay me. You just happened to be reading a magazine in your mans house, and out jumps this doctors note with his HIV status and it lands directly in your face, at eye level. You were not snooping around and you had no idea he could be positive. Where exactly did you find the note, you lying queen? You and I both know that you cannot tell this man of your findings until he tells, you because you are likely to get a severe ass whoppin. He lied to you because he knew you would not be able to handle the truth. You feel betrayed? Ha! How do you think he is going to feel when he finds out that you went through his personal files. Come clean with your boyfriend and tell him the truth. Even though you are not used to doing so, it feels good. He may or may not dump your ass but I am sure you will be able to handle it. Try to keep your messy life clean in “98”



FAREWELL

Poem Written By Andrew McCarthy - New York

This poem is dedicated to my dear friend Aldo.

This summer
will be hard
hot with sweat
very alone

Lewis says
that it is already
70°
in Tex-ass

It will be
his first summer
there
spring too

Aldo
is learning of
his graduate
school
acceptances
no doubt
he will
leave New York
Aldo lives
down the block
from where
I lived
for 31/2 years
with my ex

Lewis lived
31/2 blocks
from where I am
now

I'm losing
all of my men
to life changes
I can't plan,
forces that draw

I can't draw
despite
all of my art
classes
I need real men

Before you go
Aldo
call me
and read verses
from
The Vagina
Monologues
recorded
on my answering
machine
at midnight

Talk about cunt
feeling cunt
power of cunt

We three are the
cunty tops
you Lewis and me

Feeling cunt
feeling tee
feeling cunt
feeling tee
cunt-tee
cunt-tee
cunt-tee
cunt-tee
feel it
mamma!
Quiero más
for you and me

Cunty
cunty
cunty
cunty
Cunty
cunty
cunty
cunty

Sit with me
in front of
the gay bookstore
on 5th Avenue
with no
underwear on
cruising boys
at the bodega
on Sackett Street
dripping salt
in the July heat

Slutty sistahs
strong
walking
next to
police cars
at 1am
in the park
search lights on
driving
ssssllloooooowww
they were having
a hard time
finding men
that night too

Before you go
let me lay
my sticky dizzy
head
on your flat
brown stomach
in the grass
wet earth
rising up
ants on my boots
while we're
drooling over
boys
in lycra suits

Before you go
tell me again
about being
the other man
for emotionally
unavailable men

I know
you wanted
that one
and the
one before

Before you go
give up
cigarettes
for good
turn the gas on
and cook
delicious food
heavy garlic
mojo de aillo
and
green platinos

Before you go
grow
your Panamanian
afro
braid it in rows
tight on your skull
pull them out
and start all over
Grow your dreads
then
cut them off
again

Complain to me
please
let me hear
your voice
in front of my face
twisting out
cackled curses
about your hair
too tight
too curly
too much
to deal with
¡Coño!
Shit!

Before you go
let me
run my
calloused
finger tips
across your
sharp-stubbled
cheeks
bunched up
smiling
caterpillar eye-
brows
making their way
across your fore-
head

Before you go
I want to
dance
with you
bumping with
strange men
and
stank
stale
cigarette smoke
at Escueilita
for $2
this and every
Thursday
I'll pay for the cab
ride home

Before you go
let me borrow
and beat off
with
the last
Christian Bjorn
video
you stole
Brazilian
twin brothers
fucking for us
whenever we
want

Before you go
let me
say
I love you
gyyyyyyrrrrlllllllllllll!
one more time
typed
all in caps
in our email

KRISPEE
KREEMEE
KUNTEE
KRAAAAAZEE
LOVE, GYRL,
ALWAYS

Before you go
let me
say
I miss you
already
I am crying
already
again

Today
Valentine's day
let me
say
You are my
precious.

Stepping Out

****All Black
***Mostly Black
** Significantly Black
* Somewhat Black

YOUR PREMIER GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below. Source: BLK.com

ALABAMA

CLUB 21**, 117 N. 21st St., Birmingham 35203, 205-322-0469.

ARIZONIA

HARLEY'S 155*, 155 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix 85013, 602-274-8505. Blackest Thursday and Saturday.

INCOGNITO***, 2424 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix 85016, 602-955-9805. Blackest Friday and Saturday after hours.

CALIFORNIA

ALIBI EAST/BACK ALLEY*, 225 S. San Antonio Ave., Pomona 91766, 909-623-9422.

ANNEX**, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood 90301, 310-671-7323.

BENCH & BAR*, 120 - 11th St., Oakland 94607, 510-444-2266.

BOX*, 715 Harrison St., San Francisco 94107, 415-647-8258. dancebox@aol.com

BRASS RAIL*, 3796 Fifth Ave., San Diego 92103, 619-298-2233.

CABEL'S REEF****, 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 94612, 510-451-3777.

CAPER ROOM****, 244 S. Market St., Inglewood 90301, 310-677-0403.

CATCH ONE****, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-734-8849, 213-737-1159.

CLUB Q**, 177 Townsend St., San Francisco 94107-1907, 415-647-8258. First Friday of month. qdance@aol.com

COMFORT ZONE***, 581 Fifth St., Oakland 94607, 510-869-4847. Saturday only

COTTAGE****, 5050 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-935-5540.

DETOUR**, 1087 Manzanita St., Los Angeles 90029.

DRAMA****, 5047 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019-4129, 213-936-8913.

ENDUP**, 401 - 6th St., San Francisco 94107, 415-357-0827, 415-896-1075, 415- 896-1095, 415-541-9422 (fax). Blackest Sunday afternoon.

EXPRESS*, 708 N. Blackstone Ave., Fresno 93701, 209-233-1791.

FAULTLINE*, 4216 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles 90029, 213-660-0889.

HORIZON****, 3416 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles 90018.

JEWEL'S ROOM****, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-737-1159.

LODGE***, 4923 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood 91601, 818-769-7722. Blackest on Saturday late.

MENAGERIE**, 3581 University, Riverside 92501, 909-788-8000.

PENDULUM***, 4146 - 18th St., San Francisco 94114, 415-863-4441.

RAGE*, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90069, 310-652-7055.

RICH'S*, 1051 University Ave., San Diego 92103, 619-295-2195.

ROBBIE'S*, 390 Pomona Mall, Pomona 91761, 909-620-4371.

STUDY***, 1723 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles 90027, 213-464-9551.

WHITE HORSE INN*, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 94609, 510-652-3820.

COLORADO

CLUB RAVEN***, 2217 Welton St., Denver 80205, 303-296-1741. Open weekends only.

CONNECTICUT

ART BAR**, 84 W. Park St., Stamford 06902, Sunday night only.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

BACHELOR'S MILL****, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-1931.

BACK DOOR PUB****, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-546-5979.

CIRCLE AKA RASCAL'S**, 1629 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 20036, 202-462-5575. Blackest Friday and Saturday nights, and Sunday afternoon.

DELTA ELITE****, 3734 10th St., N.E., Washington 20017, 202-529-0626. Gay on Friday and Saturday.

EDGE***, 56 L St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

FIREPLACE**, 2161 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-1293. Blackest daily at happy hour.

FRATERNITY HOUSE*, 2122 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-223-4917. Blackest downstairs.

MR. P'S*, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-9009.

NOB HILL****, 1101 Kenyon St., N.W., Washington 20010, 202-797-1101.

PHASE ONE***, 525 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-6831.

SUGAR KANE PALACE****, 221 Riggs Rd., N.E., Washington 20011, 202-269-4145.

TRACKS 2000****, 1111 - 1st St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-3320. Blackest on Sunday. Mostly black Womyn's Night last Tuesday of month..

ZIEGFIELD'S****, 1345 Half St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-554-5141. Black and lesbian Thursday.

FLORIDA

BOARDWALK**, 17008 Collins Ave. N., North Miami Beach 33160, 305-354-8617.

CLUB OBSESSIONS****, 7900 N.E. First Ave., Miami 33138.

CLUB PARK AVENUE***, 115 E. Park Ave., Tallahassee 32301, 904-599-9143. Blackest on Sunday.

COPA NIGHTCLUB***, 2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 33316. Blackest on Sunday.

ON THE WATERFRONT****, 3615 N.W. South River Dr., Miami 33142, 305-635-5500. Blackest on Tuesday.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE***, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32805, 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS****, 375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando 32803, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

SUGAR'S****, 17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami 33160-3113, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

THIRD DIMENSION**, 711 Edison Ave., Jacksonville 32204, 904-353-6316.

TRACKS***, 1430 E. 7th Ave., Tampa 33605, 813-247-2711. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

GEORGIA

ARMORY*, 836 Juniper, Atlanta 30309, 404-881-9280.

LORETTA'S****, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta 30308, 404-874-8125.

OTHERSIDE****, 1924 Piedmont Rd., Atlanta 30324, 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.
PALACE****, 13 Simpson St., Atlanta 30303.

WORLD CLUB/TRAXX***, 306 Luckie St., N.W., Atlanta 30313, 404-681-5033. Black and gay on Saturday. Straight on Thursday and Friday.

IOWA

6:20*, 620 S. Madison, Iowa City 52240, 319-354-2494.

BLAZING SADDLES*, 416 E. 5th St., Des Moines 50309, 515-246-1299.

CLUB*, 506 S. Brady St., Davenport 52801.

ILLINOIS

BATON SHOW LOUNGE**, 436 N. Clark St., Chicago 60610, 312-644-5269.

BERLIN*, 954 W. Belmont, Chicago 60657, 773-348-4975. Blackest on third Sunday of month..

FACES***, 130 N. 4th St., East St. Louis 62201, 618-271-7410.

GENERATOR****, 306 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60661, 312-243-8889.

GENTRY ON RUSH**, 712 N. Rush St., Chicago 60611, 312-664-1033. Blackest on Saturday.

GENTRY ON HALSTED*, 3320 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

JEFFREY PUB****, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago 60649, 773-363-8555.

JR'S*, 325 - 20th St., Rock Island 61201, 309-786-9411.

LITTLE JIM'S*, 3501 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-871-6116. Blackest on Saturday.

NUTBUSH CITY LIMITS**, 301 N. Harlem Ave., Forest Park 60130, 708-366-5117.

ROSCOE'S TAVERN & CAFE*, 3354-6 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-281-3355.

KANSAS

OUR FANTASY*, 3201 S. Hillside, Wichita 67216, 316-682-5494.

LOUISIANA

BOURBON PUB*, 801 Bourbon, New Orleans 70116, 504-529-2107.

BUS STOP**, 542 N. Rampart, New Orleans 70112.

GOLDEN LANTERN**, 1239 Royal St., New Orleans 70116, 504-523-6300.

OZ**, 800 Bourbon St., New Orleans 70116, 504-593-9491.

PARADE DISCO*, 801 Bourbon, New Orleans 70116, 504-529-2107.

WOLFENDALE'S****, 834 N. Rampart, New Orleans 70116, 504-524-5749.

MARYLAND

ALLEGRO**, 1101 Cathedral St., Baltimore 21201, 410-837-3906.

BUNN'S****, 608 W. Lexington St., Baltimore 21201, 410-234-2866.

HIPPO**, 1 W. Eager St., Baltimore 21202, 410-547-0069. Blackest on Thursday.

PARK SPORTSMAN BAR****, 412 Park Ave., Baltimore 21201, 410-727-9620, 410-727-8935.

MICHIGAN

CONTINENTALE***, 156 Monroe, Detroit 48226.

MENJOS*, 928 W. McNichols, Detroit 48203, 313-863-3934.

RAILROAD CROSSING*, 6640 E. 8 Mile, Detroit 48234, 313-891-1020. Women.

SHOPPER'S LOUNGE****, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit 48226, 313-961-1916.

MINNESOTA

GAY 90S*, 408 Hennepin, Minneapolis 55401, 612-333-7755.

SALOON*, 830 S. Hennepin, Minneapolis 55403, 612-332-0835.

MISSOURI

Club 747****, 1624 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis 63103, 314-621-9030.

MAGNOLIA'S RESTAURANT AND BAR*, 5 S. Vandeventer, St. Louis 63108, 314-652-6500.

MISSISSIPPI

CLUB CITY LIGHTS**, 200 N. Mill St., Jackson 39201, 601-353-2041.

NORTH CAROLINA

SCORPIO LOUNGE*, 2301 Freedom Dr., Charlotte 28208, 704-373-9124.

NEW JERSEY

FIRST CHOICE**, 533 Ferry St., Newark 07105, 201-465-1944.

KEY WEST*, 611 Heck St., Asbury Park 07712.

MURPHY'S**, 59 Edison St., Newark 07102, 201-622-9176.

NEW YORK

CLIT CLUB**, 101 Ave. A, New York 10009, Tuesdays only. Women.

CLIT CLUB**, 432 W. 14th St., New York 10014, 212-406-1114. Fridays only. Women.

CLUB HOUSE 134*, 134 Dewey Ave., Buffalo 14214.

KELLERS****, 384 West St., New York 10014, 212-243-1907.

MANHATTAN MONSTER**, 80 Grove St., New York 10014, 212-924-3558.

NITE SPOT**, 201 Windsor, Jamestown 14701, 716-483-3456.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT**, 1 Front St., Brooklyn 11201, 718-852-0139.

OCTAGON****, 555 W. 33rd St., New York 10001, 212-947-0400.

RED ZONE**, 2018 45th St., Astoria 11105-1230.

SOUND FACTORY**, 618 W. 46th St., New York 10001, 212-643-0728. Blackest on Saturday.

TWO POTATO***, 143 Christopher St., New York 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

UNCLE CHARLIE'S**, 56 Greenwich Ave., New York 10011, 212-255-8787.

CLUB UNIQUE****, 1415 Locust St., Philadelphia 19102-3810. Sunday only.

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1470 WEST***, 1470 W. Dorothy Ln., Dayton 45409, 513-293-0066.

COLUMBUS CONNECTION**, 851

DOMINOS****, 612 Prospect Ave., Cleveland 44115, 216-771-9020.

NUMBERS****, 620 Frankfort Ave., Cleveland 44113, 216-621-6900. Black on Friday.

OHIO CITY CLUB OASIS****, 2909 Detroit Ave., Cleveland 44113, 216-574-2203. Black on Saturday.

PENNSYLVANIA

SKYLINE CLUB***, 12th & Arch St., Philedelphia 19107. Blackest Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

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CANDY SHOP**, 1903 Two Notch Rd., Columbia 29204.

NEW ATTITUDE**, 706 W. Washington St., Greenville 29601, 803-233-1387.

TENNESSEE

AMNESIA*, 2866 Poplar, Memphis 38111, 901-454-1366.

BACKSTREET MEMPHIS*, 2018 Court Ave., Memphis 38104, 901-276-5522.

HIDEAWAY****, 3620 Buena Vista Pike, Nashvile 67218, 615-256-4666.

N-COGNITO****, 338 S. Front St., Memphis 38103, 901-523-0599.

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BERRYHILL**, 12726 N. Freeway, Houston 77060, 713-873-8810.

CHARLIES***, 1301 Lavaca St., Austin 8711, 512-474-6481.

CLUB EXTREME***, 11670 S.W. Freeway @59. 281-564-1000

CREW*, 309 W. Market St., San Antonio 78205, 210-222-9553.

INCOGNITO****, 2524 McKinney St., Houston 77003, 713-237-9431.

METRO***, 2204 Elm St., Dallas 75201, 14-742-2101. (Mail: Box 1187, Dallas, TX 75221). manoman226@aol.com

OUTPOST**, 1419 Richmond, Houston 7006, 713-520-8446.

RASCALS***, 1318 Westheimer, 7006. 713-942-CLUB

SAINT*, 1430 N. Main, San Antonio 8212, 512-225-7330.

VILLAGE STATION*, 3911 Cedar Springs, Dallas 75219, 214-526-0690.

VIRGINIA

BABE'S*, 3166 W. Cary St., Richmond 3221, 804-355-9330. Women.

BROADWAY CAFE*, 1624 W. Broad St., Richmond 23220, 804-355-9931.

CLUB COLOURS***, 536 N. Harrison St., Richmond 23220, 804-353-9776.

RUMOURS II***, 1008 North Blvd., Richmond 23273, 804-358-3838.

WASHINGTON

733 RESTAURANT & LOUNGE***, 733 Commerce St. S., Tacoma 98402, 206-27-0733. Friday only.

ASY*, 916 E. Pike, Seattle 98122, 06-323-8343. Women.

MADISON PUB*, 1315 E. Madison St., eattle 98122, 206-325-6537.

NEIGHBORS***, 1509 Broadway, eattle 98122, 206-324-5358. Blackest hursday and Friday.

Z*, 1501 E. Olive Wy., Seattle 98122, 06-322-6356.

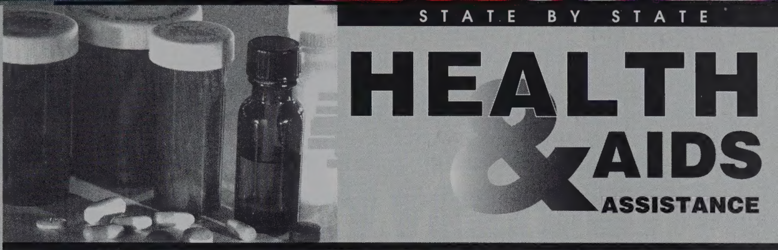
ADDYWACK'S*, 722 E. Pike, Seattle 8122, 206-322-7777.

E-BAR*, 1114 Howell, Seattle 98101. lackest Thursday and Saturday.

EA WOLF SALOON*, 1413 - 14th ve., Seattle 98122, 206-323-2158.

IX ELEVEN TAVERN***, 611 - 2nd ve., Seattle 98104, 206-345-9430.

ACKY TAVERN*, 1706 Bellevue Ave., eattle 98122, 206-322-9744.



STATE BY STATE

HEALTH & AIDS ASSISTANCE

ALABAMA

Jeff. Co. AIDS in Minorities, Inc., Box 1116, Birmingham 35201, 888-687-2715, 205-323-7949, 205-323-5599 (fax), tmorris334@aol.com

ARIZONA

Tribe, 4700 N. Central Ave. #204, Phoenix 85012, 602-266-7233, 602-265-0374, lifegrd@apaz.org

CALIFORNIA

African-American Men's Health Project, 74 New Montgomery St. #600, San Francisco 94105, 415-597-9137.

African-American AIDS, Support Services and Survival Institute, 351 - 15th St., Oakland 94612-3303, 510-433-9377, 510-835-4206 (fax).

African-American AIDS, Support Services and Survival Institute, 105 S. Locust St., Inglewood 90301-1812, 310-419-1969, 310-419-1960 (fax), www.amassi.com

AIDS Project of the East Bay, 651 - 20th St., Oakland 94612, 510-834-8181.

Al DS Prevention Team, 1219 S. La Brea Ave., Los Angeles 90019, 213-964-7820, 213-964-7830 (fax).

Al-Anon for Black Gay and Lesbians, 1268 Sanchez St., San Francisco 94114, 415-995-2581.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-734-8849.

Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project, 405 Hilgard Ave., Box 951563, Los Angeles 90095-1563, 310-825-9858.

Brothers Network, 973 Market St. #650, San Francisco 94103, 415-356-8140, 415-356-8156 (fax).

Cocaine Anonymous, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90019, 213-734-8849.

Drew University HIV Education and Outreach Projects, 1631 E. 120th St., #MP-25, Los Angeles 90059, 310-763-9746, 310-763-9780 (fax), drewuniv @earthlink.net

Drew University HIV Education and Outreach Projects, 2610 Industry Wy., Lynwood 90262, 310-763-9746, 310-763-9780 (fax), drewuniv@earthlink.net

HIV Survival Group for People of Color, IKUNU Program, 220 N. Euclid Ave. #130, San Diego 92114, 619-527-2477.

Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 90016, 213-936-4949, 213-936-4973 (fax).

National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, 973 Market St. #600, San Francisco 94103, 415-356-8100, 415-356-8103 (fax), 415-356-8138 (fax), ntfap@aol.com

People of Color Issues Committee, American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, 459 Fulton St. #107, San Francisco 94114, 415-255-4547, gaylesmed@aol.com

People of Color AIDS Survival Effort, 3177 Ocean View Blvd., San Diego 92113, 619-231-9300.

Positive Connection, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 90016, 213-936-4949, 213-936-4973 (fax).

Project WARN, 5601 W. Slauson Ave. #200, Culver City 90230, 213-641-7795.

Rafiki Services Project, 1042 Divisadero St., San Francisco 94115-4409, 415-346-5860, 415-346-6037 (fax), sfbcoa@earthlink.net

San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS, 1042 Divisadero St., San Francisco 94115-4409, 415-346-2364, 415-346-6037 (fax), sfbcoa@earthlink.net

Third World AIDS Advisory Task Force, 10 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco 94102, 415-487-8000.

COLORADO

B-A-Pal, 1525 Josephine St., Denver 80206, 303-388-5862.

Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, 2739 Milwaukee St., Denver 80205, 303-320-4602.

Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, Box 18974, Denver 80218, 303-399-0329.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HIV Support Group for African/American Men and Women, Whitman-Walker Clinic,1407 S St., N.W., Washington 20007, 202-797-3591.

Intergroup Minority Project: AIDS Consortium and Trust (IMPACT), 300 I St., N.E. #301, Washington 20002, 202-5-IMPACT.

National Minority AIDS Council, 1931 - 13th St., N.W., Washington 20009, 202-483-6622, 202-483-1135 (fax), nmac2@aol.com

Us Helping Us: People into Living, 819 L St., S.E., Washington 20003-3650, 202-842-1337, 202-547-1258 (fax).

GEORGIA

AIDS Education and Services for Minorities, 1432 Donnelly Ave., S.W., Atlanta 30310, 404-753-2900, 404-752-9610 (fax).

Brothers Back-2-Back, Box 7721, Atlanta 30357-0721.

ILLINOIS

Brotherrs Projects, 6540 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago 60637, 773-667-8313.

Minority Outreach Intervention Project, 1255 S. Wabash #2S, Chicago 60605, 312-986-0661, 312-986-0928 (fax).

AIDS Care Project, 140 Clarendon St., 6th Fl., Boston 02116, 617-859-3036, 617-859-0965 (fax).

Men of Color Against AIDS, 95 Berkeley St., 3rd Fl., Boston 02116, 617-423-6622, 617-423-4278 (fax).

Multicultural AIDS Coalition, 801 Tremont St. #B, Boston 02119-1065, 617-442-1622, 716-442-6622 (fax), multia@aol.com

MICHIGAN

Project Survival, 1150 Griswold, Detroit 48226, 313-961-2027, 313-961-0780 (fax).

NORTH CAROLINA

Lesbian and Gay Health Project, Box 3811, Durham 27702.

NEW YORK

Caribbean Women's Health Association, 244 Utica Ave., Brooklyn 11213, 718-826-2942.

Haitian Coalition on AIDS, 50 Court St. #605, Brooklyn 11201, 718-855-7275.

Majority Action Committee, ACT-UP, Box 7932, New York 10150.

Men of Color AIDS Prevention, Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #1100, Box 67, New York 10013, 212-788-4310, 212-788-9661 (fax).

Minority Task Force on AIDS, 475 Riverside Dr. #1374, New York 10115, 212-870-2691, 212-870-2607 (fax).

People of Color in Crisis, 462 Bergen St., Brooklyn 11217, 718-230-0770, 718-230-7582 (fax).

VOCAL, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York 10013, 212-566-4995.

OHIO

Living the Dream, 1277 Brookwood Pl., Columbus 43209, 614-252-4226.

OREGON

Oregon Minority AIDS Coalition, Box 12048, Portland 97212.

PENNSYLVANIA

Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI), 1233 Locust St. #401, Philadelphia 19107-5414, 215-546-4140.

TEXAS

Renaissance II, Brother 2 Brother Project, 2606 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.#203, Dallas 75215-6397, 214-421-4343, 214-421-2140 (fax).

VIRGINIA

Community HIV/AIDS Prevention Services, 1224 Princess St., Alexandria 22314, 703-549-4232, 703-768-9665 (fax).

WASHINGTON

Brother to Brother, 1200 S. Jackson #25, Seattle 98144, 206-528-2028, 206-322-7061.

People of Color Against AIDS Network, 1200 S. Jackson #25, Seattle 98144, 206-322-7061.

People of Color AIDS/HIV Support Group, Seattle, 206-322-AIDS.

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JUST FOR LAUGHS

REAL STORIES OF THE NON-TECHNICALLY INCLINED

I worked with an individual who plugged their power strip back into itself and for the life of them could not understand why their computer would not turn on.

1st Person: "Do you know anything about this fax-machine?"

2nd Person: "A little. What's wrong?"

1st Person: "Well, I sent a fax, and the recipient called back to say all she received was a cover-sheet and a blank page. I tried it again, and the same thing happened."

2nd Person: "How did you load the sheet?" 1st Person: "It's a pretty sensitive memo, and I didn't want anyone else to read it by accident, so I folded it so only the recipient would open it and read it."

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car. "Do you need some help?" I asked. She replied, "I knew I should have replaced the battery in this remote door unlocker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery for this?" "Hmmm, I dunno. Do you have an alarm, too?" I asked. "No, just this remote 'thingy,'" she answered, handing it and the car keys to me. As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, "Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries...it's a long walk."

Tech Support: "What does the screen say now."

Person: "It says, 'Hit ENTER when ready'."

Tech Support: "Well?"

Person: "How do I know when it's ready?"

My friend called his car insurance company to tell them to change his address from Texas to Vermont. The woman who took the call asked where Vermont was. As he tried to explain, she interrupted and said, "Look, I'm not stupid or anything, but what state is it in?"

Several years ago we had an intern who was none too swift. One day he was typing and turned to a secretary and said, "I'm almost out of typing paper. What do I ?" "Just use copier paper," she told him. With that, the intern took his last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five blank copies.

I was working the help desk. One day one of the computer operators called me and asked if anything "bad" would happen if she dropped coins into the openings of her PC. I asked her if this was something she was thinking of doing. She said, "never mind" and hung up. So I got out my trusty tool kit and paid her a visit. I opened her CPU case and sure enough, there was 40 cents.

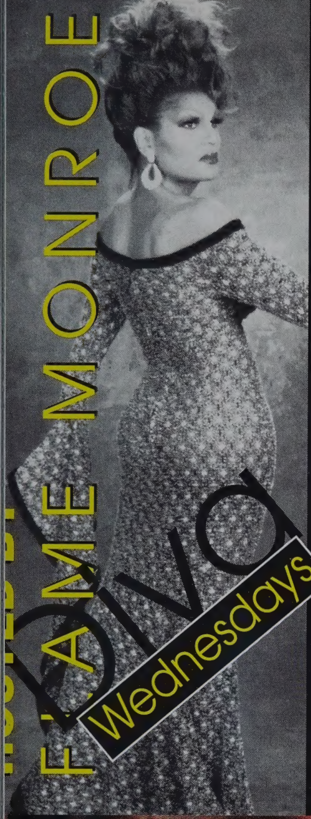
One of our servers crashed. I was watching our new system administrator trying to restore it. He inserted a CD and needed to type a path name to a directory named "i386." He started to type it and paused, asking me, "Where's the key for that line thing?" I asked what he was talking about, and he said, "You know, that one that looks like an upside-down exclamation mark." I replied, "You mean the letter "i"?" and he said, "Yeah, that's it!"

This person had a broken lamp which he wanted to discard. Unfortunately, the power cord ran under his refrigerator, making it impossible to move the lamp while the cord was attached. He decided to cut the cord, since the lamp was unusable anyway. He didn't remember to unplug it first. I found him in the hallway rolling back and forth.

I was in a car dealership a while ago when a large motor home was towed into the garage. The front of the vehicle was in dire need of repair and the whole thing generally looked like an extra in "Twister." I asked the manager what had happened. He told me that the driver had set the cruise control, then went in back to make a sandwich.

I called a company and asked to speak to Bob. The person who answered said, "Bob is on vacation. Would you like to hold?"

I rented a movie from Blockbuster. Before the movie begins a message comes on the screen saying, "This movie has been altered to fit you television screen." Comment from person: "How do they know what size screen I have?"



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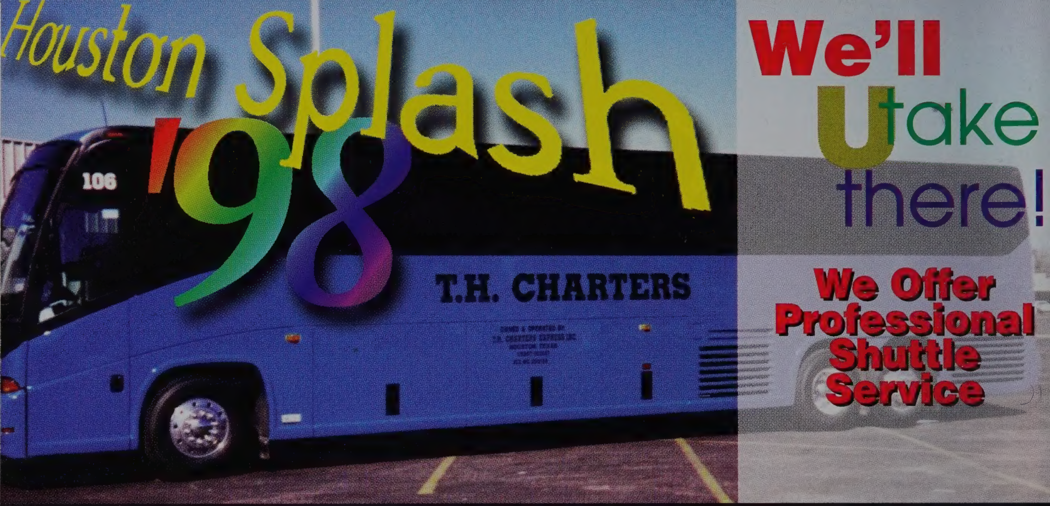
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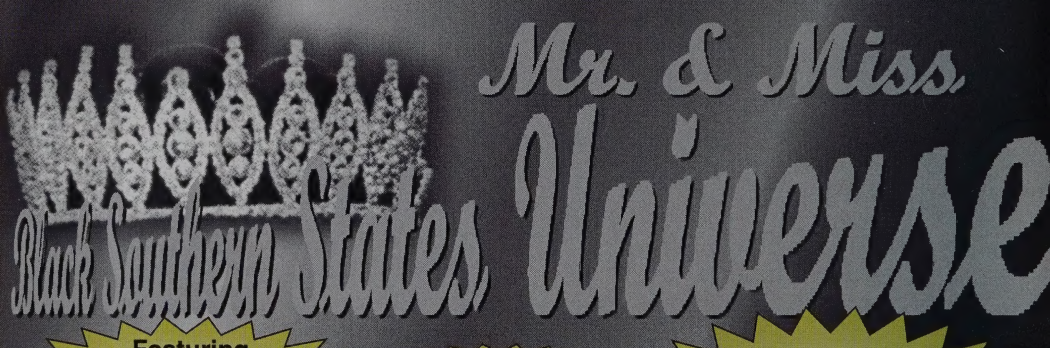
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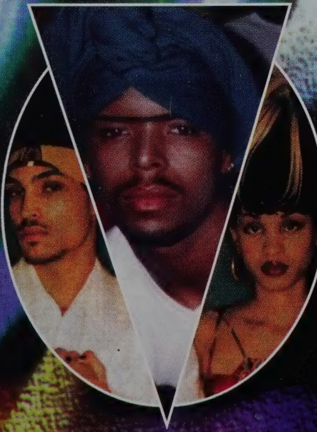

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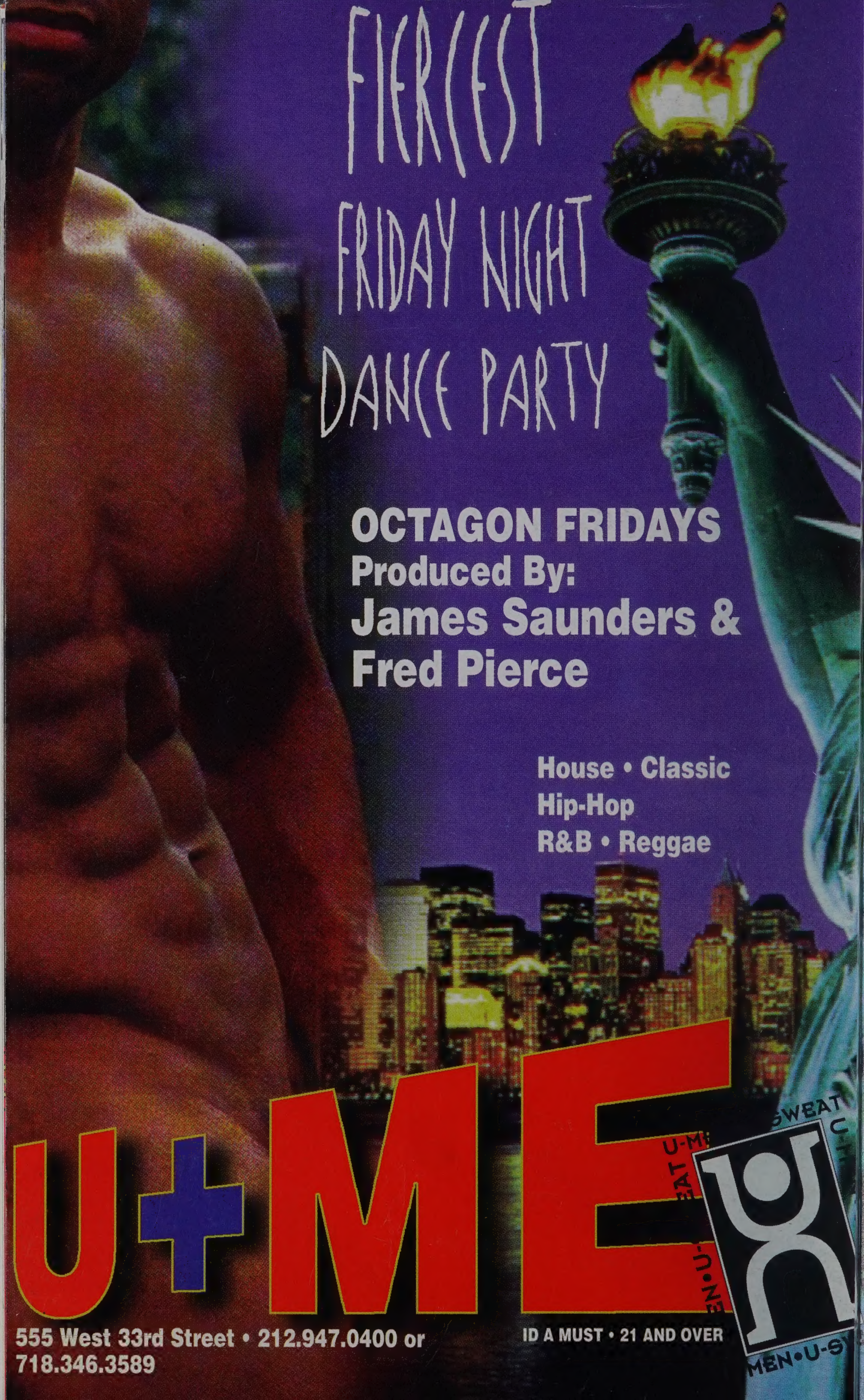

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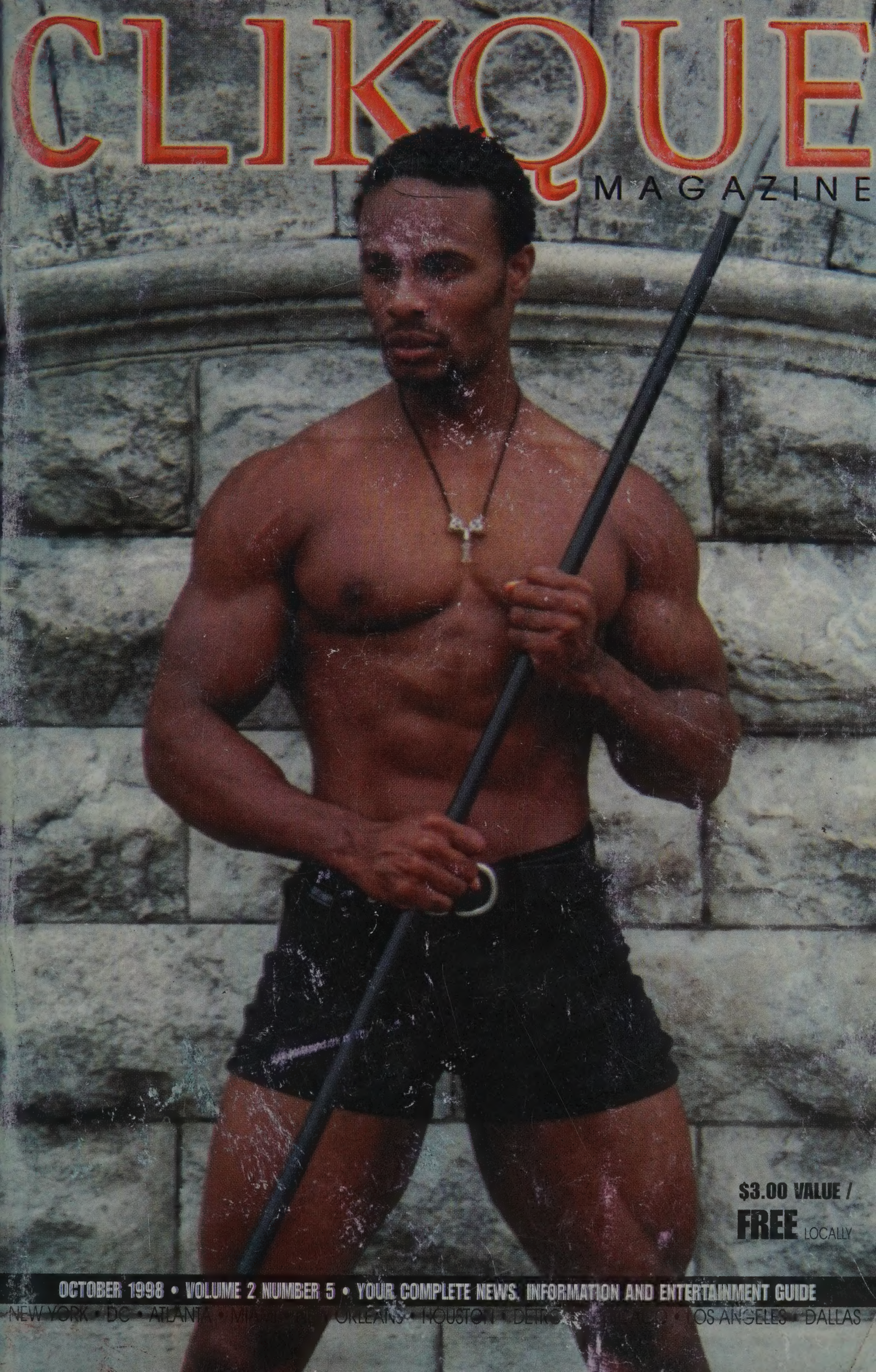

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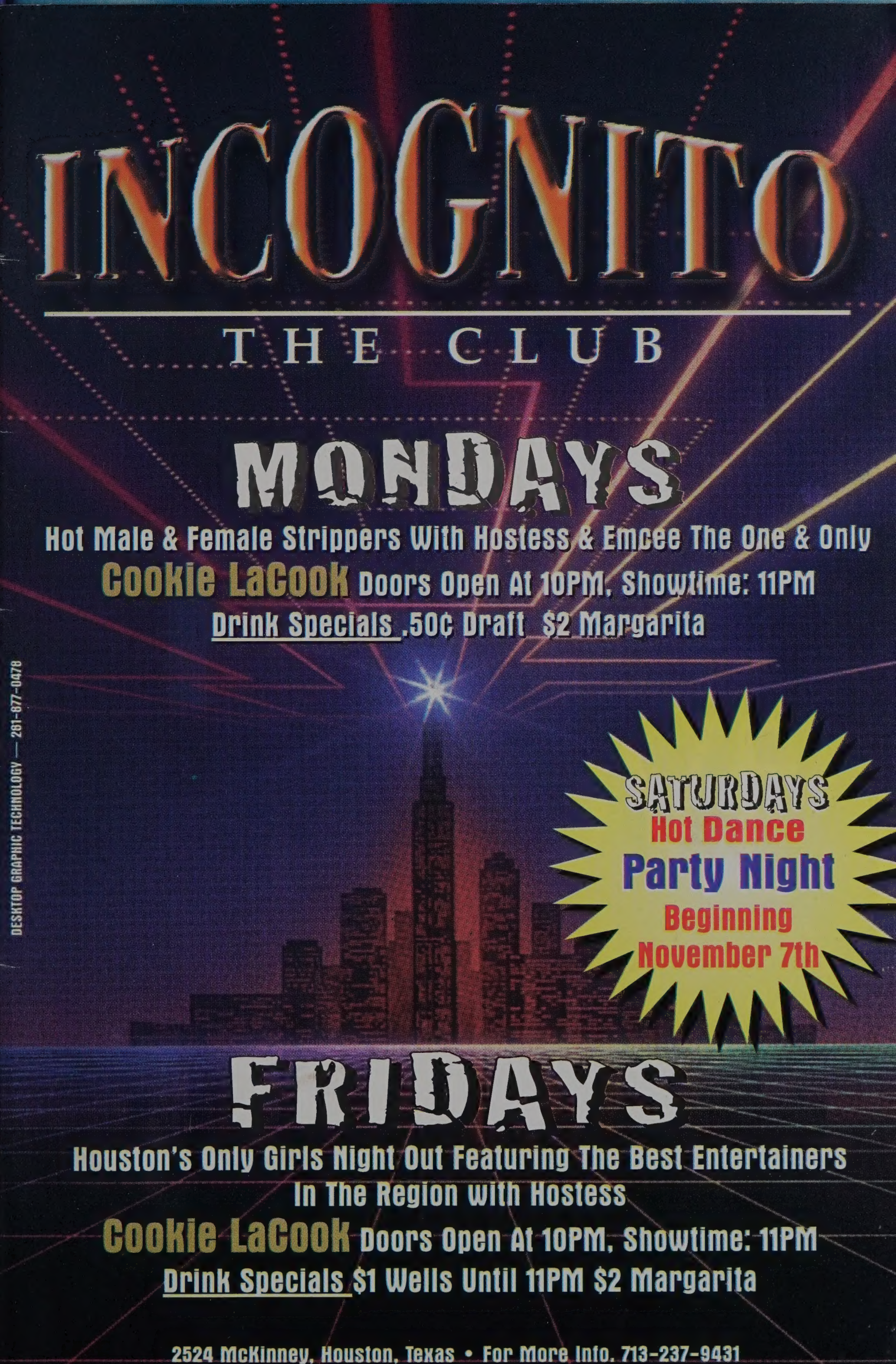

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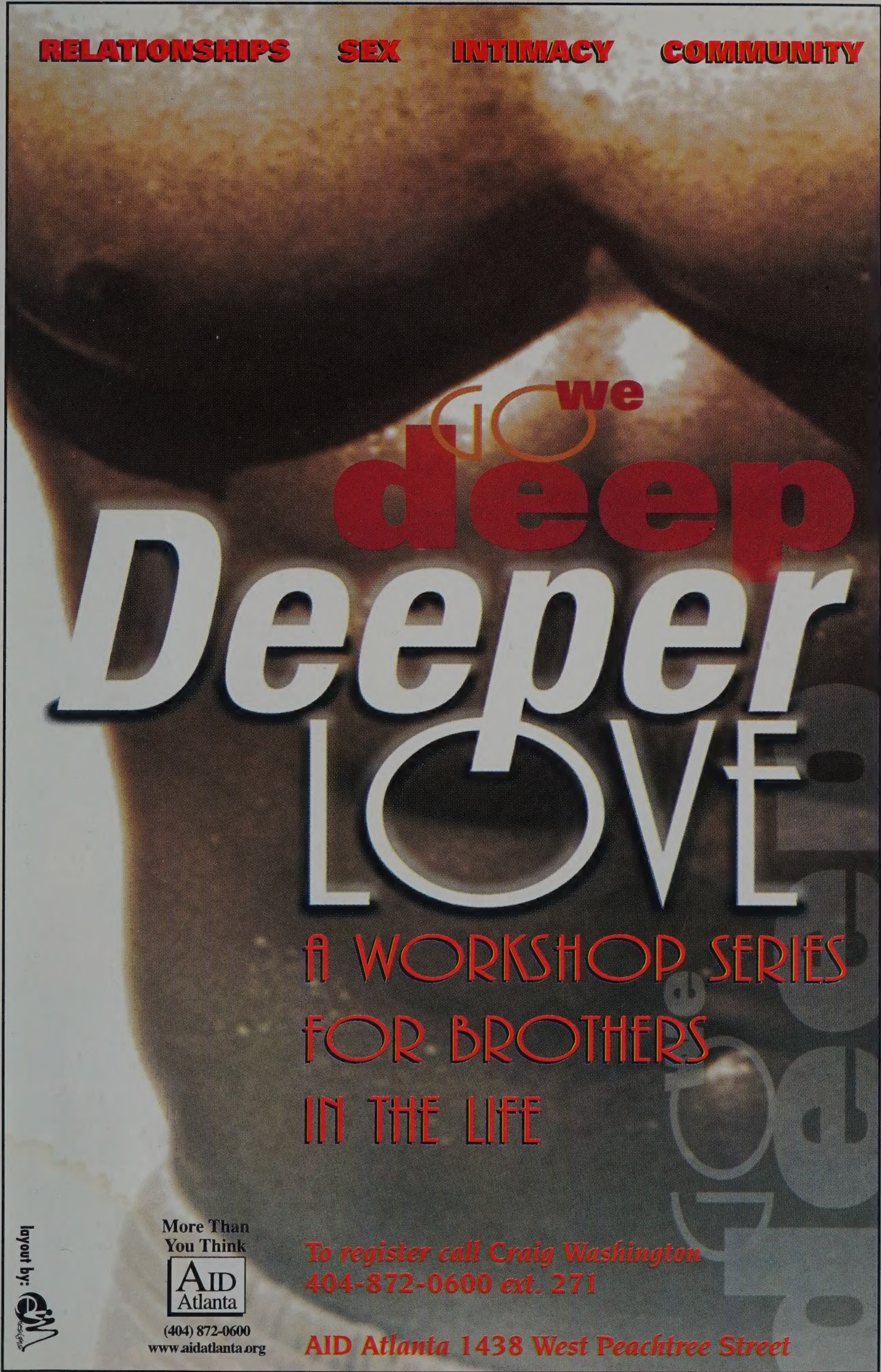
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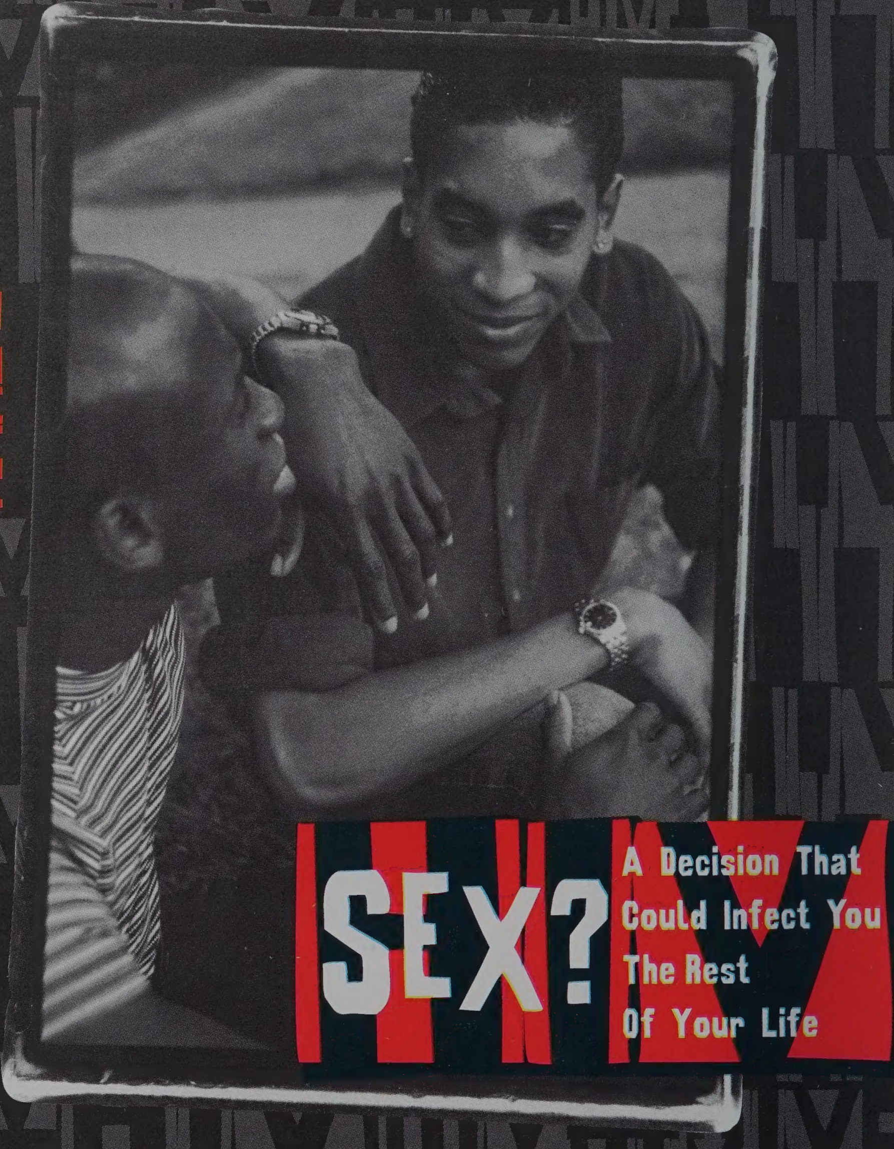
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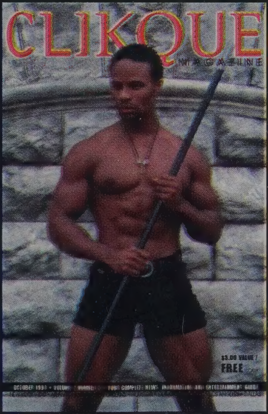
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WHAT'S UP WITH HIV PREVENTION

A Focus Group for Gay & Bisexual Men of African Decent

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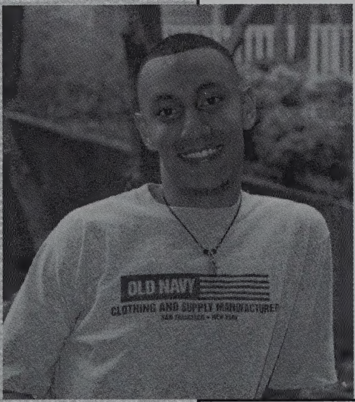

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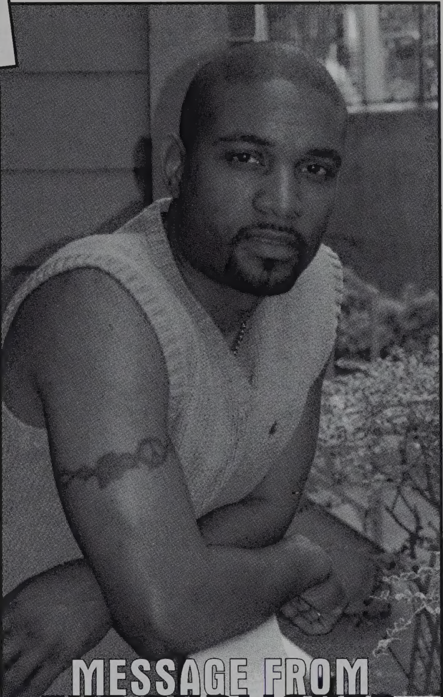


MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

It is indeed my pleasure to offer you another issue of Clikque Magazine, The Nation's premier publication for African Americans "In The Life".

Despite the fact that Clikque Magazine is relatively new on the blocks, our name and appealing reputation is transcending to homes all over the country. At Clikque, it is our option that African Americans in the life does not have to settle for inferior representation. Therefore, We will continue to be a benchmark for other such publications in our industry.

Please continue to send your comments and articles to us. We like hearing from you.

Read on, and enjoy.

Here's a brief look at what thousands of people are saying about us

"I want to thank you for coming out w/such a professional, well rounded magazine for the Black Community. It has been needed for a long time. I recently reviewed your magazine the other day from a friend that went to the Hotlanta festivities this past Labor day. I'm very impressed with the photos, information, content and the quality of the magazine. I applaud you again the staff of Clikque. Continue doing a great job for our Black Gay Community."

Trevoir Hudson — Romulus, MI

"Finally, a quality, colorful magazine for African American in the life. I hope that our community gives your magazine the support that it truly deserves..."

Donavan Miles — Chicago, Il

"First I must say that your magazine is fabulous. The graphics and art work are far superior to any Black gay publication I have ever read. ..."

Mykal Parker — New York, NY

"... I am very impressed with your magazine. The presentation is professional, the articles thought provoking, and the photos visually stimulating!"

Lynwoodt Jenkins — Atlanta Ga

"I must say that your magazine is the best looking and most professional publication for gay African Americans that I have ever seen."

Bobby Blake — Los Anglos, CA

I would like to congratulate you on your magazine. I think it is great to see a magazine promoting black gay people. I look forward to your magazine every month..."

Stephen Scott — Washington, DC

"....I saw the latest edition and was again impressed with the cover and design, ... overall, a hell of a job by you and your staff. The story from the guy about being HIV positive was exceptionally well-written and bold. Please commend him for me. it was one of the most revealing pieces I have encountered from a brother. His background, humanity and humility speak for itself. Good job overall from all contributors."

Lee W. — Editor, Houston Chronicle

"I want to take this opportunity to let you know that I have seen your magazine and I am very impressed with the content, the layout, and the writing. I saw the issue announcing Gay Pride Weekend - it was very informative."

Lorenzo D. Pugh — Atlanta, Ga

"....I enjoy reading Clikque Magazine and think it is the best thing that has hit gay black houston in a while. Best regards."

Charles W. Harvey — Houston TX

People & Places

On The Move

By Dwight Powell

Where's The Party At?

So, how would you describe the hottest club in Atlanta? Is it the club that has the best music, the best faces, the best bodies, or simply the best atmosphere. Well, while all of these elements enhance the success of a nightclub, for me, the most important element or the one most significant facet that assist in my decision to revisit a nightclub, if it's not the only one in town, is it's staff. A staff that exemplifies to its patrons, even if it's not expressed in words, shows that their business is appreciated and that they are valued as a customer. Such was the case at my first visit to Fusion, a nightclub in Atlanta. that "kids" all around the county had been buzzing about for the past.

What's All The Fuss About?

On that long, drawn-out, hot summer night, I took note that the patrons were warmly greeted from the moment they approached the entrance of the huge club. I'm not sure if most of them saw with their eyes what I was seeing through mine. Yes, the music was great, the men were in fact beautiful, the atmosphere, simply awesome. But that's not what moved me. Extremely impressed by their professionalism, courtesy, and their attentive nature, I thought to myself, I must get to the bottom of this madness. Who or what makes this all happen.

New Kids On The Block?

And there he was, standing in an attentive silence. Gliding through the night with a seemingly effortless, however graceful flow. No I'm not highlighting Rosalin Russell in Aunty Mame, rather, I am referencing Reginald Thomas, affectionately known as Reggie, General Manager of the club . I was introduced to Reggie by Raymond Carter, President of Raymond Carter and Associated, and "then" promoter of the nightclub (Fusion).

It would take a few weeks before I would finally sit down with Reggie and "get the skinny" behind the success of Fusion. Reggie, who recently left the Edge in Washington DC, was summoned by Raymond Carter, his employer for the past 4 years, to help promote Fusion Fridays in Atlanta. He was then given the huge task of hiring the entire staff to serve and cater to the needs of Atlanta's black gay community. With the assistance of Martin Little, Leondra Robinson, and Darroe Johnson, they cultivated and hand-picked a staff that is now known for great customer service that rivals TRAXX and other great nightclubs.

Prior to Sunday, September XX, Reginald had been working in the shadow of Raymond Carter for many years. Now it is his time to move to the front and let folks see the man behind the man. Clikque has just learned that Reggie recently resigned as General Manager of Raymond Carter & Associates to server as President of Black Gay Men Together (BGMT), the new club promoters at Fusion.

The Reason?

While nobody will disagree that Raymond Carter is an excellent club promoter with savvy business skills, one would have to wonder why this unexpected

CPNTINUE ON PAGE 37

HIV/AIDS

HEADLINERS

BC-AIDS Cell Death,0493

New research shows how HIV suddenly erupts, increases cell death

By JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA - *AP Science Writer*

Molecular biologists may have discovered how AIDS suddenly can erupt into a catastrophic illness after lurking for years as a low-grade infection.New research by a nationwide team of scientists suggests that the human immunodeficiency virus eventually attacks a class of disease-fighting cells produced by the immune system that were thought to be impervious to attack by the virus.The results, which have been limited so far to test-tube experiments, could provide drug makers with a new target for drugs designed to keep the virus in check, as well as vaccines aimed at preventing infection.Researchers said the attack on this different group of immune cells, known as CD8 T cells, triggers an explosion of cell death that exhausts the immune system and leaves the body vulnerable to pneumonia and other secondary infections that typically kill most AIDS patients.The new study was published in the latest issue of the journal Nature.Exactly how AIDS affects the CD8 cells remains unclear, though.Researchers said one possibility is that the virus reduces the immune system's social control over its own powerful cells. The disruption to this precise chemical balance triggers a potentially fatal domino effect that not only leaves the body vulnerable to infection, but also may contribute to the loss of brain cells that causes AIDS-related dementia and other debilitating side effects.Because CD8 T cells are professional killers, they may do serious harm if they end up in the wrong place, said French AIDS researcher Jean Claude Ameisen of the Hospital Bichat in Paris.For several years, scientists have known that HIV readily infects one type of immune cell known as the CD4, or helper T cell, by locking onto a protein on its surface and breaching its cell wall.The CD8 cells were thought to have better protection. Yet in the latter stages of AIDS, CD8 cells start dwindling rapidly, too.Researchers said their experiments show that a strain of HIV that usually evolves late in the course of infection latches onto a particular surface protein of the CD8 cell known as CXCR4.But unlike in CD4 cells, the virus does not actually take over its cellular machinery.Instead, they report, when the virus latches onto the CXCR4 protein the CD8 cell sees the change as a kind of a death signal and commits suicide.The cell death process is complex, and quickly involves an array of other cell types that soon may subvert the entire immune system and lead to full-blown AIDS symptoms, said lead author Georges Herbein of the Picower Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, N.Y.Because CD8 cells are thought to limit the spread of the infection, the failure of CD8 function could contribute to the development of AIDS, he said.AP-WS-09-10-98 1233EDT

PRESS RELEASE:

for the African Americans Taking Charge AIDS updates. National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum

Los Angeles, CA — Forty nine (49) local community based organizations and health departments in partnership with the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum (the Forum have joined forces to present National Townhall meetings and Updates from the 12th World AIDS Conference in six US cities.

African Americans account for almost half of all new AIDS cases, a far greater proportion than any other racial group. Yet, they appear to have benefited the least from the powerful new combination therapies. "Throughout the epidemic, African Americans have fared worse than whites or other ethnic groups on every health-care measure." says Christopher Smith the Project Director of the Forum's AIDS Prevention Team. "We are diagnosed later in the course of disease, receive worse care, benefit last from new advances in treatment, and die faster".

Unfortunately, this has not changed with the advent of protease inhibitors and other potent new therapies. Although the new drugs are cutting death rates among all races, the decline in deaths among blacks lags behind the declines among whites and Latinos. And thousands of African Americans are continuing to get infected every year.

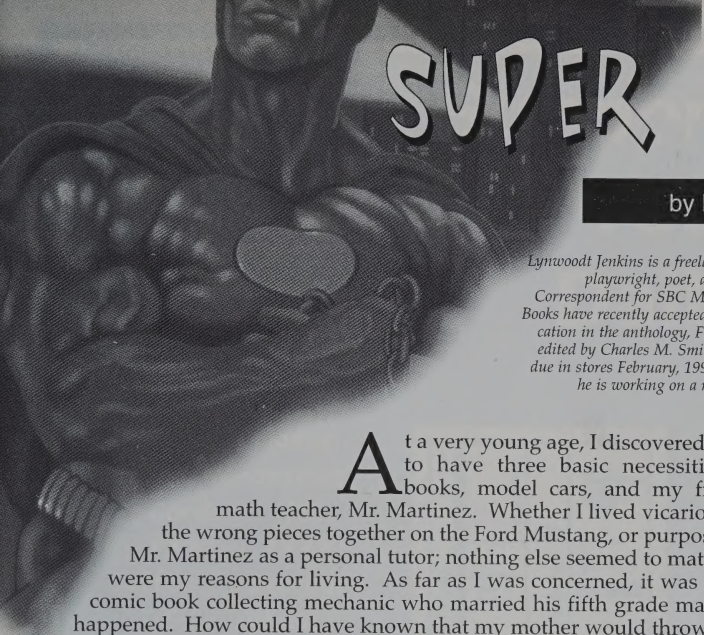
This project is very exciting. says Phill Wilson, founder of the Forum. "As Calvin Rolark said 'Nobody can save us from us, but us'. We have 43 organizations involved in this effort. The majority of them are black community based organizations. These updates were organized by African Americans, for African Americans. All of the doctors, treatment advocates, case managers and HIV/AIDS presenters are black. As far as I know, this is the first time such an initiative has been taken".

The six cities selected for this project paint a dramatic picture of how disproportionately the African American community is impacted by HIV/AIDS.

CITY	% OF BLACK AIDS CASES
Atlanta, GA	53.2%
Baltimore, MD	83.7%
Detroit, MI	64%
Denver, CO	13%
Los Angeles, CA	19%
Newark	74%

See Page 27 For Conference Update Dates

That National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum is the only national organization that advocates for the nation's 2.5 million lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people of African descent. The organization was founded in 1988 in Los Angeles and opened a national office in Washington, DC in 1996.



SUPER HEROES

by **Lynwoodt B. Jenkins**

Lynwoodt Jenkins is a freelance journalist, playwright, poet, and the Atlanta Correspondent for SBC Magazine. Avon Books have recently accepted him for publication in the anthology, Fighting Words, edited by Charles M. Smith. The book is due in stores February, 1999. Currently, he is working on a novel of fiction.

At a very young age, I discovered that I had to have three basic necessities: comic books, model cars, and my fifth grade math teacher, Mr. Martinez. Whether I lived vicariously through Wolverine, glued the wrong pieces together on the Ford Mustang, or purposefully feigned dyslexia to gain Mr. Martinez as a personal tutor; nothing else seemed to matter. At the time, I thought they were my reasons for living. As far as I was concerned, it was my destiny to grow up to be a comic book collecting mechanic who married his fifth grade math teacher. Of course, it never happened. How could I have known that my mother would throw out my entire comic book collection in her haste to move, that; the Ford Mustang wouldn't magically become real, or that; Mr. Martinez would have never given me his hand in marriage. To say the least, I was devastated. I knew then that, being an adult wasn't going to be fun at all. In fact, I believed it to be quite painful. Ironically, as a boy growing up without a father, the final blow came when I learned that there were no such things as super heroes. Especially, if they tried to give blood.

Not long ago, I tested negative for the HIV / AIDS virus. Renewed, I was determined to share my joy with the world. So, I decided to donate blood. It was a big mistake! As I stood in line in front of the Red Cross mobile with the rest of my co-workers, I waited my turn, stepped in, sat, then, proceeded to answer a series of personal and medical questions. One of which was, had I ever engaged in sexual activity with another man? Though, I knew it would soon become office gossip, I responded, "yes."

"I'm sorry, sir, but we can't accept your blood. You fall into the high-risk category, and there's nothing we can do. However, you're more than welcome to have a T-shirt and some cookies for your time." The nurse responded.

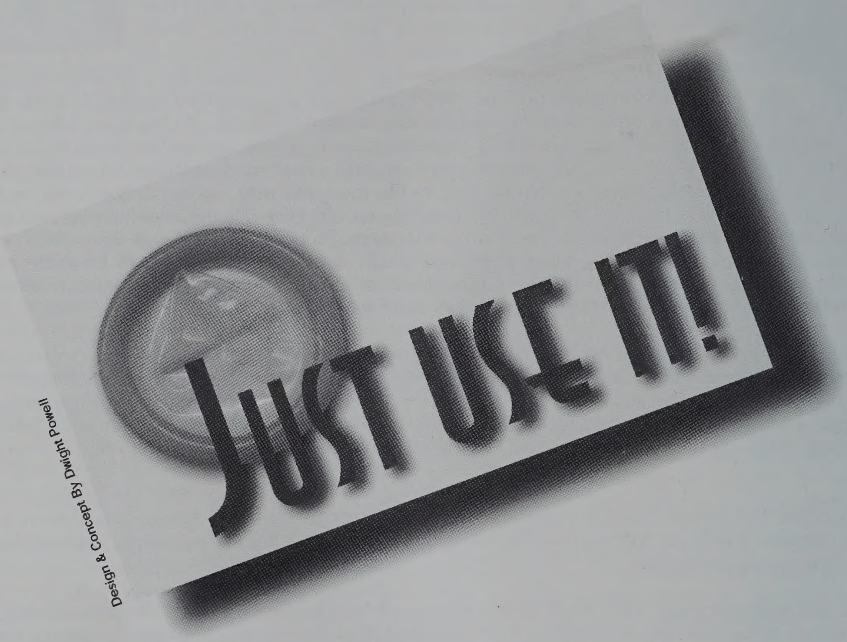
A shirt, and some cookies? I felt like I'd been slapped across the face by Mary Poppins. Though, she tried to be as compassionate as possible, I was insulted, then dismissed. The combination of sickness and rage that gathered in my stomach moved to lodge itself in my throat. I was speechless. Humiliated by the experience, I thought, isn't all the blood tested, regardless of a person's sexuality? What about those who needed my blood to live? I was only trying to help. I know it was childish to have even thought it, but I just wanted to strap on the cape and save the day, one last time.

A week later, I was still unsettled by the whole episode. I was determined to find answers, and fast! There was only one thing left to do. I called the Red Cross, The National Red Cross Testing Center, and even the Center for Disease Control. I told my story, requested a more suitable explanation, and each time, I endured a maze of transfers. All before, Beth Greenburg, the (former C.O.O.) Chief Operating Officer of The Red Cross, calmed me down.
"There are precautions that should have avoided this, Mr. Jenkins." Said, Mrs. Greenburg. "The bar code allows you to save face for situations like that. It should've been given to you to read, prior to you being interviewed. Then, you would have the right to decline at your discretion." She elaborated.

"Well, I wasn't given anything to read, and what about this high risk category? What's that about?" I snapped! I had an idea, but I wanted it confirmed.

CPNTINUE ON PAGE 37

HERE'S MY CARD...



Design & Concept By Dwight Powell

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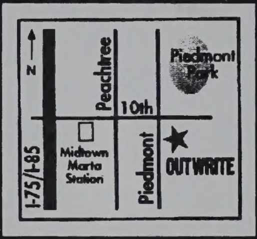

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The South's Source for Information on Our Lives

CALL FOR PAPERS

When and Where We Enter
(Literature Institute of the 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference and Institutes)
February 11-14, 1999
Westin Atlanta North Hotel, Atlanta, GA

Paper, workshop, and panel proposals are solicited for the Literature Institute of the 12th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference and Institutes. The Literature Institute is scheduled to include the presentation of critical scholarship in academic exchange sessions, workshops, and the evening will close with open readings. The Literature Institute will be held during the first day of the conference, Thursday February 11, 1999. The purpose of the institute is to bring together scholars, writers, artists, and literature enthusiasts to explore existing critical and creative camps and to fully develop a body of critical scholarship that engages the interconnectivity of race, sexual orientation and expression, gender, class, and ethnicity issues. The review committee encourages proposals that engage interdisciplinary methodologies which examine images of Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, (lgbt) and same-gender-loving (sgl) people in literature, film, theater, or TV.

Proposals should be representative of original scholarship, dealing with issues of literary criticism, poetic interpretation and performance, theatrical representation, or heuristic workshops. Possible papers or panels might address: – assumptions and complications of black literature, black literary theory, and black literary history

- the production of black lgbt and sgl characterizations by white and/or heterosexual artists
- interracial relationships in black lgbt or sgl texts
- publishing and the establishment of a national black lgbt/sgl press
- folklore and material culture specific to black lgbt and sgl communities
- "reading" texts

Paper and Workshop Proposals must include the following: Name, address, phone, fax, and email information of the primary presenter A typed abstract (200 word maximum) A program narrative for workshops (maximum 5 pages, typed) A brief biography of each presenter

Proposals may be submitted in Microsoft Word or Wordperfect format and delivered by email (ForumConf@aol.com). Proposals may also be submitted on IBM formatted diskette via US mail (1612 K Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20006). Questions, comments, or concerns may be directed to Alaric Blair (ablair@cbd.net) or Kenyatta Dorey Graves kdgraves@wam.umd.edu) or by phone at 202.483.6786.

Proposals must be RECEIVED by November 1, 1998.

Up Close *With* Niesha Dupree

The Legendary Mother of Atlanta

By Lewis Nicholson

We live in a small world where we are only separated by six degrees, but in this tiny world of ours, big things are happening. Speaking of big, allow us to introduce you, to our featured star this month, none other than Atlanta's own Niesha Dupree, Aka, Al Thomas.

A plus sized diva with a big heart, Niesha has been a stalwart in the community and a surrogate and Step mom/ dad to many. Nieshas talents are many and varied and she uses them well for the betterment of self and community. Like most Southern Belles, she too holds a number of pageant titles, tiaras and thrones, but the difference is that she uses her spotlight in the industry as a platform, for the community services in which she is involved. Sounds like Miss America? Well Maybe, but miss Duprees reign never ends, as her platform of helping those who need her is always in effect.

Niesha has been Miss Black Universe, which she now co-ordinates on a yearly basis, Miss Gamma, Miss World, Miss Liberty International among others, but it was her crowning glory as Miss National At Large that she holds as her fondest memory to date. She was overwhelmed when her name was announced as winner in Orlando Fla, because just about everyone whom she has supported over the years was in attendance to witness the occasion, including her many sponsors.

But what is it that makes Niesha Dupree stand out among her peers and why is she so popular? Could it be, because she was a Who's Who Among American Scholars in high school? Or could it be that at Mississippi State University, in her sophomore year she was inducted into the Leadership Hall of Fame? Or could it be that she is just riding on the fact that she shares the great Martin Luther King Jr's birthday? No! It has nothing to do with any of these things, it is her ability to get along with all peoples from varying walks of life. " My ability to relate to any and everybody. I can talk to anyone from the broke without a penny, to the rich and famous, from A-Z, I can relate. I have shared many of these experiences so I can feel what others are feeling or going through."

Niesha will be doing an AIDS benefit in the Atlanta area along with Tasha Khan next month. Though the event is mainly heterosexual, Niesha expects it to be fun and besides she says it is for a worthy cause. A volunteer for many charities and causes, Niesha can also be seen at Loretta's on Monday nights where she hosts a weekly talent show. We at Clikque got our firs Glimpse of the talented, unstoppable, undeniably unique performer when she was a guest of ours at the Battle of the South In Houston. She just let the kids have it.

Niesha is extremely grateful to the city of Atlanta, for allowing her the opportunity to make it, to the status of Legendary in the Entertainment industry. She also expresses her gratitude to Joshua Johnson of New Orleans for his support and backing in her career and personal life. Sounds like she has a man to me. Born under the sign of Capricorn, Niesha is a devoted spirit to her cause of improving the quality of life in her community and for that we at Clikque salute her.

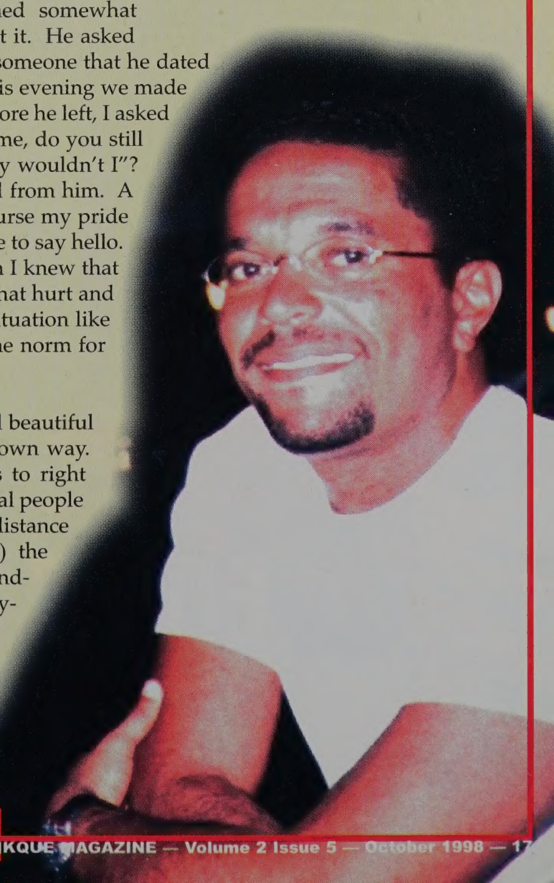
HAPPY, SINGLE AND DATING

(A Follow-up To Last Issue's Positive About Being Positive)

In this lifestyle dating is already hard enough so when a life-threatening virus is factored into the picture dating is made twice as hard. Me being the person that I have grown to be, I always try to be honest with myself and others. Honesty has never been a problem of mine however timing has been and still is. I cannot seem to figure out when the appropriate time is time someone that I am dating my HIV status. Should be on the first date, should it be right before the lights go out or should it be 3 months down the road after we have already slept together? Typically, in the past I have always laid right on the table on the first date. I've made somewhat a test a character. If I get a phone call after they have learned about my status, then they have passed. If I do not receive a phone call, then they have failed and they are labeled as ignorant. Logically, I know that this test is unfair because I realize that people are afraid of the unknown and letting your feelings get involved with someone that could possibly die is very scary. Which is why I wrote the article in last months' issue because for me it was therapeutic and I now can assume that everyone I encounter already knows my status.

Recently, over the Labor Day weekend, I was at a friend's house and a guy literally begged my friend to give me his phone number. I took his information even though I knew that he was not my type. But, never leaving a stone unturned in my search for love, I called him. We had a nice conversation, not as nice as another one that I had during the same weekend, but nice nonetheless. We spoke a few times on the phone. Then one night I invited him over. For some reason he seemed nervous to me and I asked him if he was. He assured that he was not nervous he just had work on his mind. During the course of our conversation the topic of HIV came up and I disclosed my status to him. He seemed somewhat stunned but tried to be a good sport about it. He asked questions and even offered a story about someone that he dated in the past that was "positive". Prior to this evening we made dinner plans for the next night at 8pm. Before he left, I asked him "given all that you now know about me, do you still want to go to dinner"? He said, "yes why wouldn't I"? Four weeks later and I still have not heard from him. A few nights ago I saw him at a club. Of course my pride and that ignorant label would not allow me to say hello. The truth of the matter is that even though I knew that person was not my type, I still feel somewhat hurt and rejected. This is not the first time that a situation like this has occurred but it is definitely not the norm for my life.

This year God has blessed me with several beautiful men, each of them special to me in their own way. Most of these men I disclosed my status to right away. Amazingly, to all of these very special people my status did not matter but because of distance (none of these people lived in my city) the encounters fizzled or turned into great friendships. I do not claim to be psychic or anything but I think that the reason that my status did not matter to these guys is because they realized that they question how love comes. After all tomorrow is not promised to anyone.



BY SCOTT BOGAN

EDITORIAL

LEWIS NICHOLSON

Over the past few years, the American economy has been experiencing an enormous growth and buying power. Citizens are enjoying the qualities of life far better than ever before, and for the first time since President Nixon, there is a budget surplus. Yes the country is finally in the BLACK.

So why are politicians and the media trying to convince us that the President Of The United States Of America should be impeached for his sexual mis-conduct? I should hope that none of our readership, shares this right wing philosophy, because it is certainly not in keeping with our own rhetoric and lifestyle. If the President were to admit fondling a few male secret service agents, can you imagine the chaos and pandemonium that would break loose across the country. So let me hope that you all see the Monica Lewinsky affair for what it is. A sorry misdeed which deserves forgiveness and should be left alone. Never has ones bedroom dealing interfered with ones ability to do their work. So let us leave the issue alone.

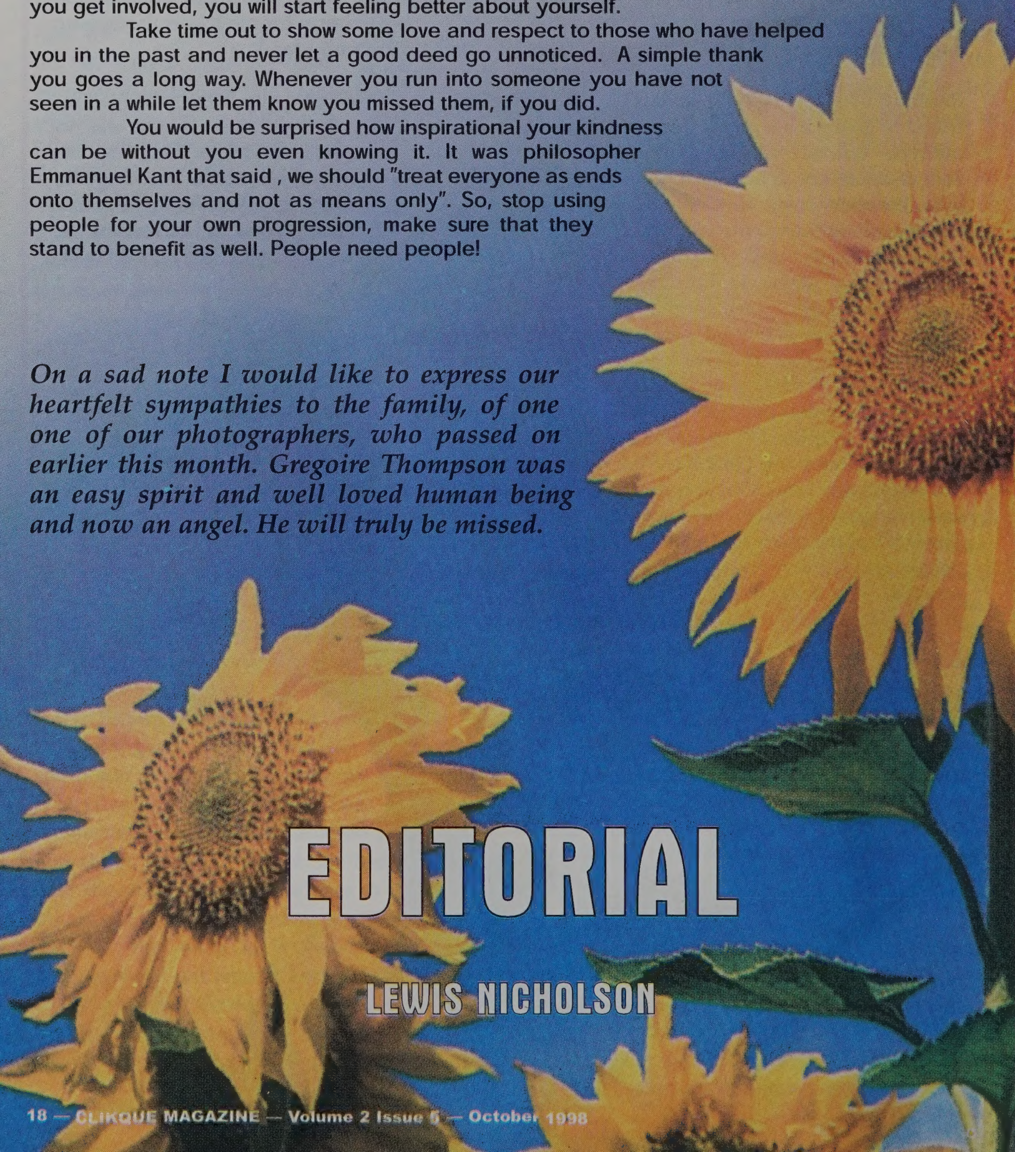
Across America the Kenneth Starr Report has been the number one seller, this month in bookstores. We know what these people are doing with that piece of porn. The same thing some of us do when we get our subscriptions to Playgirl, need I say more.

On more poignant issues, its very important for us to support each other and not wait until we are affected to start doing something for a cause. Volunteers are needed for many missions and not only AIDS related ones. Trust me, when I say your life will become more meaningful, once you get involved, you will start feeling better about yourself.

Take time out to show some love and respect to those who have helped you in the past and never let a good deed go unnoticed. A simple thank you goes a long way. Whenever you run into someone you have not seen in a while let them know you missed them, if you did.

You would be surprised how inspirational your kindness can be without you even knowing it. It was philosopher Emmanuel Kant that said , we should "treat everyone as ends onto themselves and not as means only". So, stop using people for your own progression, make sure that they stand to benefit as well. People need people!

On a sad note I would like to express our heartfelt sympathies to the family, of one one of our photographers, who passed on earlier this month. Gregoire Thompson was an easy spirit and well loved human being and now an angel. He will truly be missed.



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Tony Braxton

By: Cynthia Tornquist

NEW YORK (CNN) — If she chose, five-time Grammy winner Toni Braxton could dwell on the troubles in her life. She's currently embroiled in a contract dispute with her recording label, LaFace, and she recently filed for bankruptcy, listing debts in excess of $2 million. But instead of dwelling on the bad, Braxton is taking on a new challenge: Broadway. The 31-year-old singer, whose hits include "Breathe Again" and "You're Making Me High," is stirring things up on the Great White Way as Belle in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." "Let's just say Belle is like a big ol' glass of milk and I'm adding Nestle chocolate syrup to it," Braxton says.

I'm not an actor title

Singing on Broadway is different than singing in a recording studio, Braxton admits. "There are things I have to do to be better because I'm not an actor," she says. "There are things I have to do because I haven't trained to be a Broadway singer. My voice is very thick and rich, like a milkshake, and that tends to be sexy. But for Belle, who's like 16 or 19, you don't want her to come across that sexy, so I have to make my tone a little brighter." But both Braxton's composer and co-star say the singer shouldn't change too much. "She's got that wonderful, husky, beautiful vocal quality that's unlike any Belle we've had before," says composer Alan Menken. "She should not take Toni Braxton too much out of the perforance of Belle, because I think that's going to be the winning combin,tion," says ,co-star Meshach Taylor. And if she should feel like she needs any more advice, another recording, star who's played the role is ready to help. "I did send her a note," says former Belle Deborah Gibson, "saying if she had any questions, or anything — which she didn't. Here I am, thinking, 'I've been doing this a year.'" Braxton rehearses

It Made Me Grow Up.

Braxton says the show's creators have customized the role for her. Along with a new song, they've given her wardrobe a more Braxton-esque style. "There's a little shoulder, a little bit of my back out," Braxton says. "They've really gone out of their way to make it more comfortable for me." The experience is helping Braxton overcome her legal and financial troubles, which forced her to gain a new perspective on life. "It made me grow up," she says. "You can't blame your parents, you can't blame your friends ... you have to look at yourself and make things happen for yourself."

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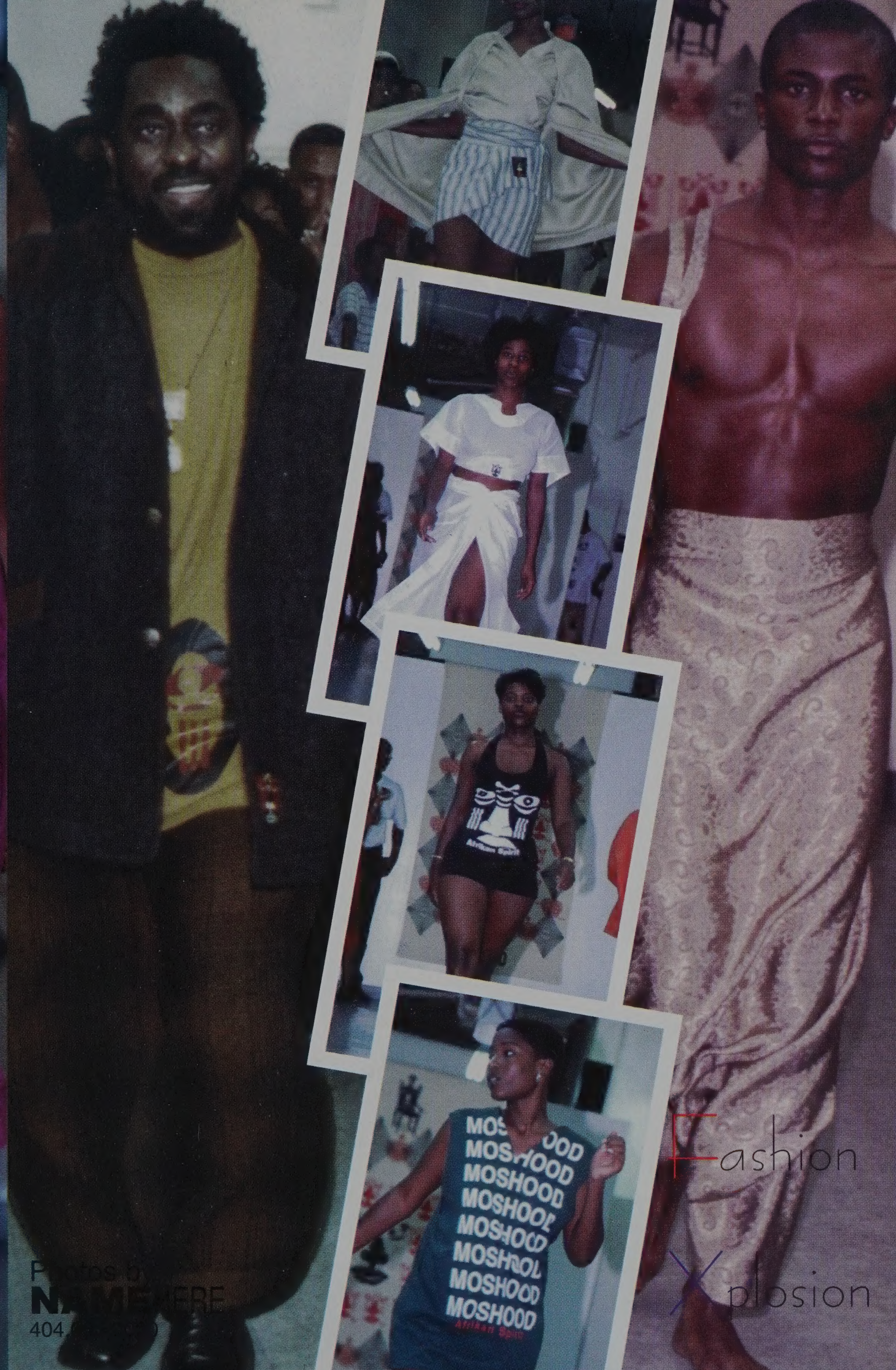
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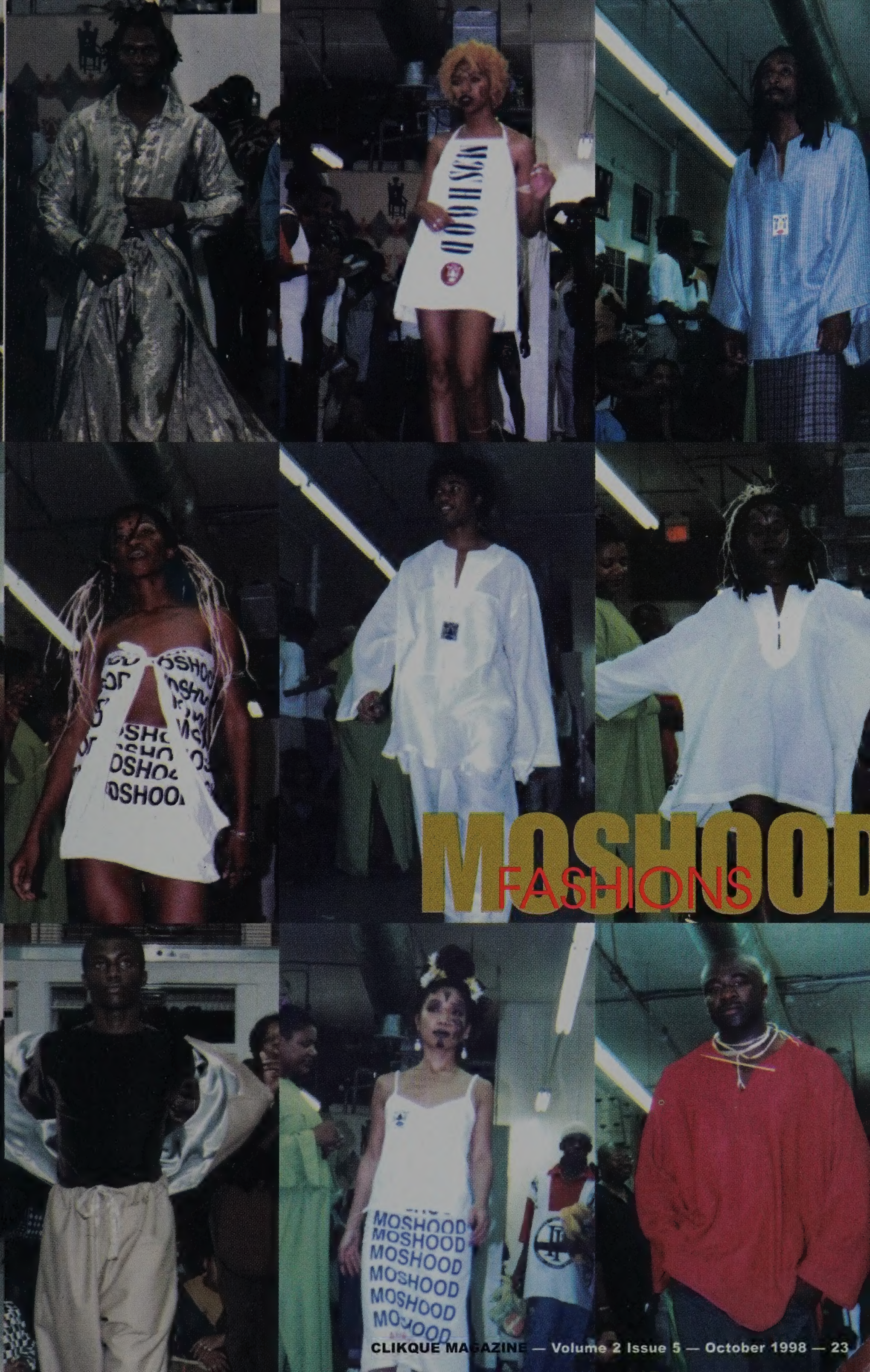
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SIR LANCEALOT

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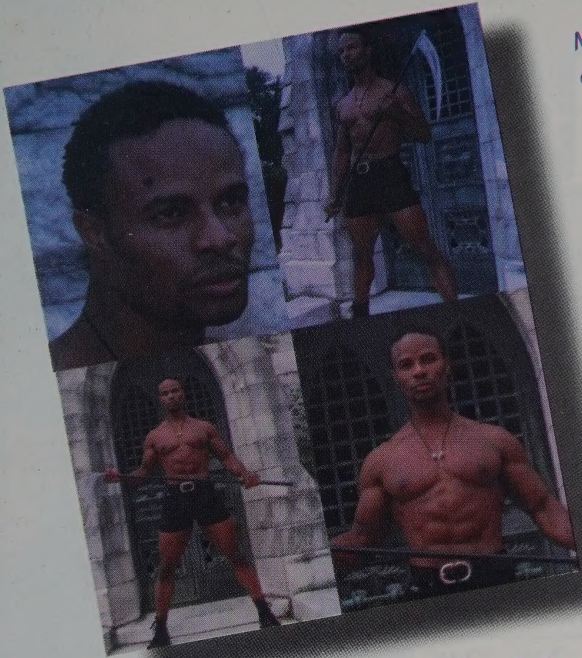
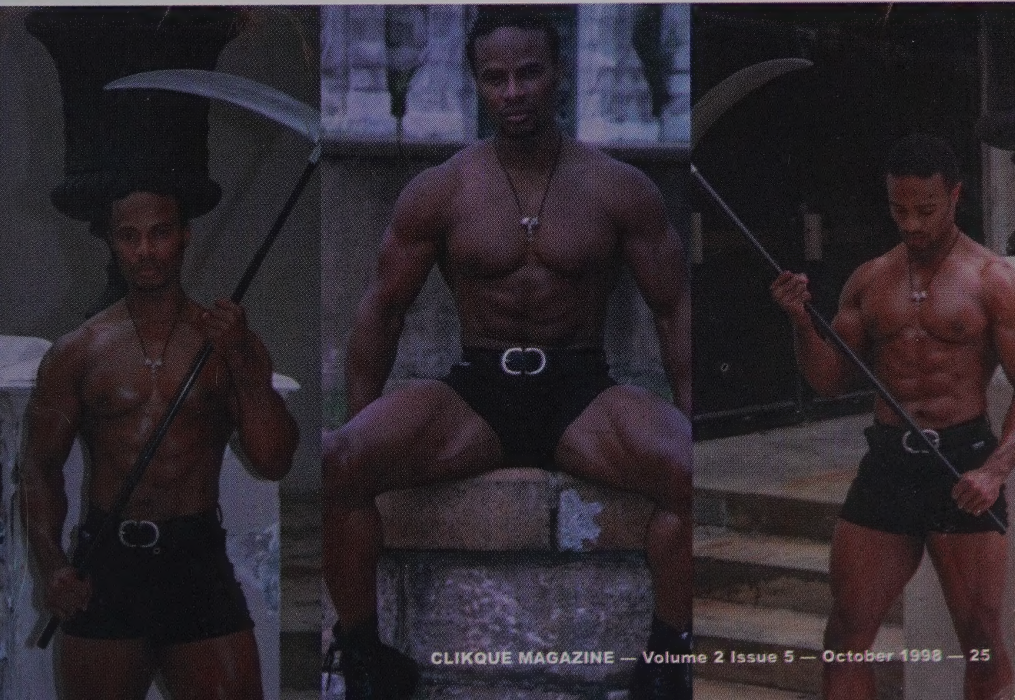


Meet Lance Forrest. This 31 year old native of Camden, New Jersey, resides in Atlanta where he is a personal trainer and a motivated small business owner. His future plans are to strengthen his business and make his product more visable to the public.

Mr. Forest philosophy of life is "We were put on earth to make things happen so we shouldn't sit around and dewl on the things that we CAN'T change. And work on things that we CAN change. By looking at the opticles and options we have and make them happen."

He believes in a good karma- What you put out is what you get back. So next time you are in ATL, he reminds you that a STRONG MIND makes a STRONG BODY.



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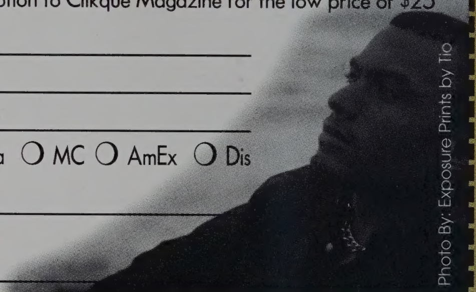

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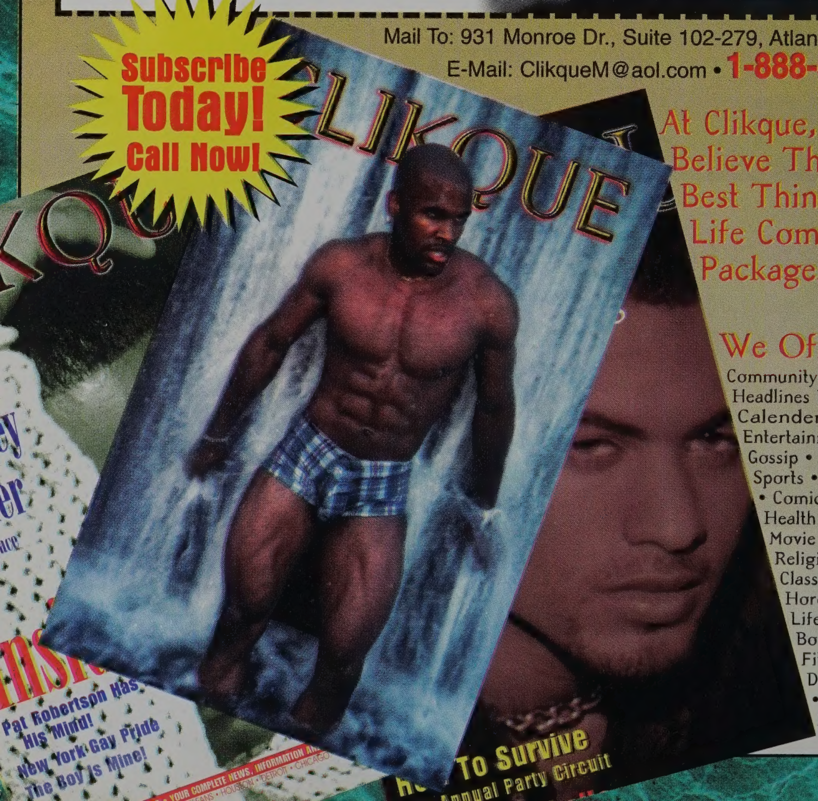
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Tiffany Brooks, Tijuanna Brooks & Chuncey Davenport
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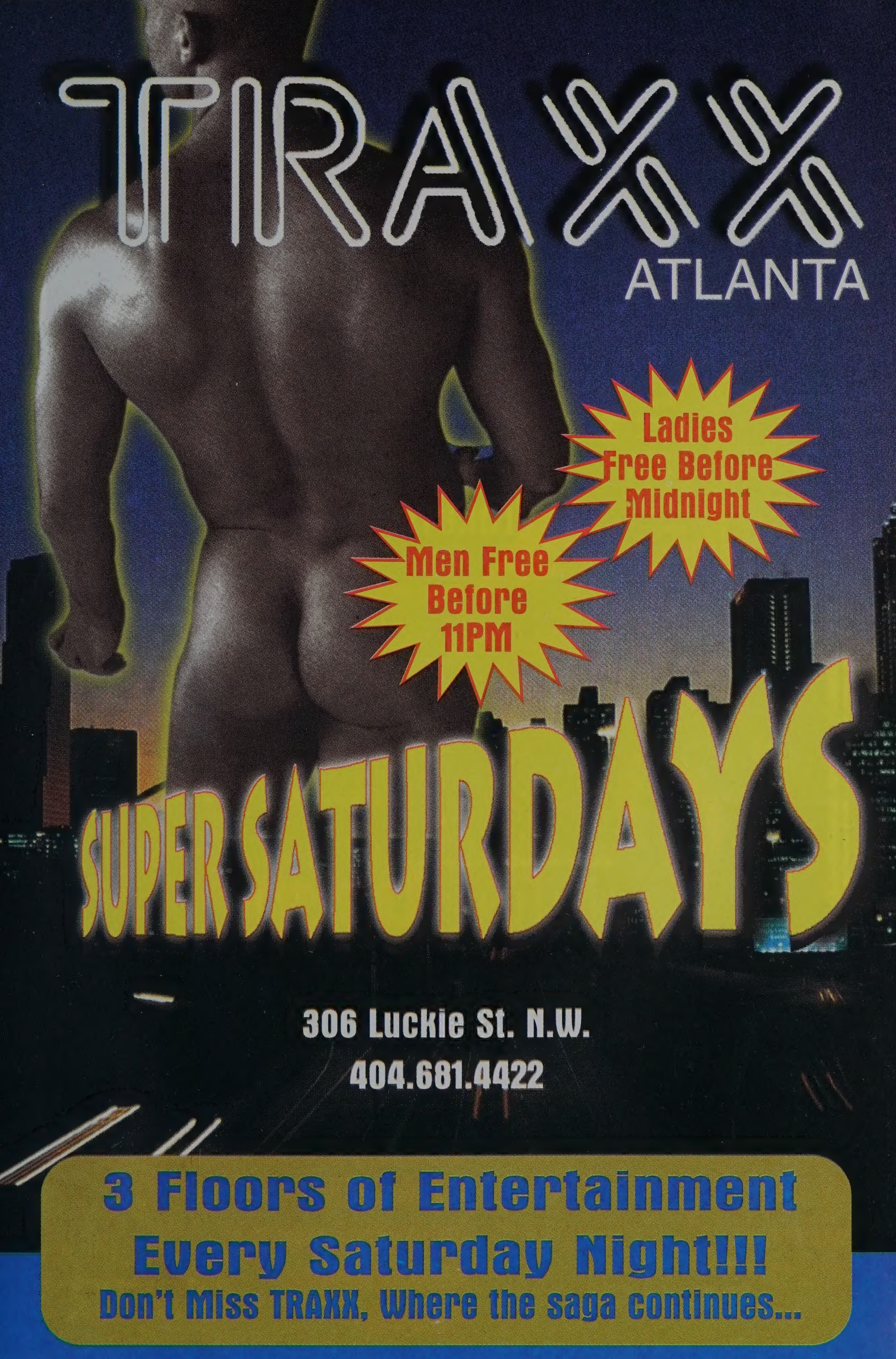
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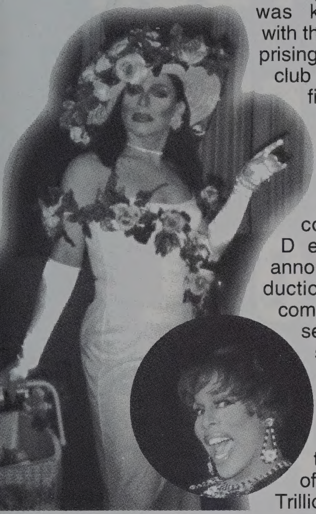
What do you get when you put a latino boy in some Mac makeup, a Patricia Feilds wig, a Christian La Croix evening gown, sportswear by Donna Karan and then she performs like her name is Alicia Kelly? The new Ms Rascals, Trillions Devereaux.



The 1998-99 Mr. And Ms. Rascals pageant though extremely controversial was keenly contested with the black horse surprising the jam packed club and snatching her first title. From a field of pageant veterans which included the likes of Tijuana Brooks and Kavier, new comer Trillions Devereaux announced in her introduction that she had come to declare herself a diva and that, she surely did.

Having completely demolished the rest of the competition in off stage interview, Trillions was a shoe in for a title, that most felt had the name Tijuana Brooks written all over it. Trillions presented herself like you have never seen her and shocked the judges into giving her perfect scores for most of the night.

Don't think that her winning was easy as it was no small feat. The scores were very close and Kavier and Tijuana both presented themselves like the tiara was already theirs. Tijuana had a show stopping talent number doing the Spanish -English mix of Toni Braxtons "unbreak my heart", complete with dancers and major stage props and set design. In the sportswear category she again slayed the kids with a million dollar head to toe look that was just amazing. So why didn't she win one may wonder? Well the other girls looked exceptional as well and the pageant was heavily weighted on the Interview portion which was won head and shoulders by Trillions Deavereaux with Kavier in a close second.

Despite what you may think about the results, the pageant was a first class show, with all the contestants outdoing themselves and truly entertaining an eager audience. Trillions accepted her victory with such class and finesse which made her look like the true Queen Of The Night.

In the Mr. Rascals contest an even contest was split by judges decision and the winner was declared to be Demetrius Domino with Jacoby Ross placing second by less than 1 percentage points. They were both quality entertainers who will also be competing in the Mr. Universe in Atlanta come Halloween. We wish them the best of luck.

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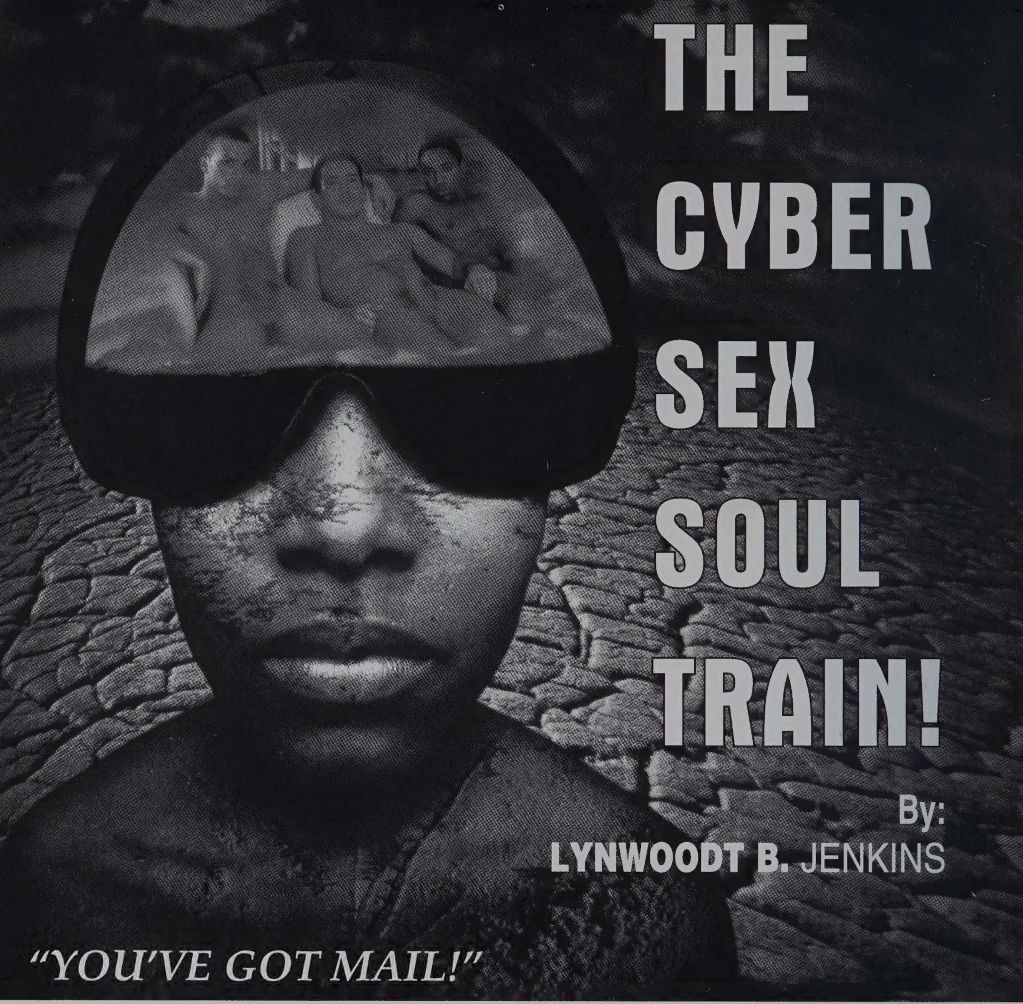

THE CYBER SEX SOUL TRAIN!

By:
LYNWOODT B. JENKINS

"YOU'VE GOT MAIL!"

Sound familiar? Anyone, who's been remotely progressive in the past 10 years either has a computer at home, or works on one in the office. Sometimes both. As we move at cyber speed on the information highway into the technological age, computers have become as common as the flu. Not to mention, viruses to boot. As several companies provide you with Internet access, America On Line seems to be the world's most popular service. Established in 1985 by its founder and CEO, Steve Case, AOL, Inc. reported a fourth quarter net income of $7.1 Million. All of which is attributed to its loyal members. I would imagine a large percentage of those members are gay men logging on. The process is simple. After you've entered your screen name and password, you hear an irritating, but brief series of static and beeps. Then suddenly, you're connected! You're literally propelled into a world where almost everything is at your finger tips. If you sign on to retrieve information, purchase a book, to make travel arrangements, or just to check mail, then you might find it exciting to receive that robotic sounding declaration of waiting messages.

However, most times, it's a ploy. Yes, mail maybe waiting to be opened and read, but usually, we use it as an excuse, then zoom! We're in a steamy chat room, reading explicit profiles, or downloading pornographic images.

From married men, through men in the closet, to proud gay men, brothers are looking for sex! One thing for certain is that sex is on everyone's mind. It's the number one marketing tool for advertisers across the board. It's used to negotiate deals, consummate relationships, and even as a form of apology. Either way, sex is at the top of the list. So, whether your pointing and clicking your way into orgasmic fits, or just feel like an adventure, get your ticket and log onto the cyber sex soul train, the hippist trip in America!

Sigmund Frued, (whom I think may have been the most dysfunctional), would probably say that it is a healthy outlet for the duality in human nature. Unlike Clark Kent and his spandex wearing Superman other-self, one is given the opportunity to explore the more devilish side of his personality. Or, dare I say... their true identity. With screen names ranging between "Tapdisazz," "Rufftrade," and "Freak4U" it wouldn't take Frued, or a rocket scientist to figure out what's being advertised. Least of all, what they're currently in the market to obtain. If, however, you're still confused, or just want to find out physical statistics or "stats" as we like to call them, then you can read a personalized profile. Some profiles will entertain you. Others will leave you wondering if the person is actually psychotic. While, most will specify "no fats, fems, drugs or smokers." In other words, if you're an over-weight flaming queen who smokes crack and then chain smokes cigarettes, then you're definitely not the most popular boy at the party.

Though, I've never actually met a man off-line, with hopes of friendship, sex, or otherwise, I have heard about the experiences. Apparently, few have been pleasant, and most are a litany of horror stories. One scenario that seems to be repeated is the brother who shows up completely opposite of how he described himself. These are they who have stretched the truth so far that you need a map to get to it. I personally don't understand the logic behind agreeing to meet someone, then showing up not all the person you described, but that's just me.

According to the men I've questioned and/or chatted with, most agree that we fall into sex, I mean, six basic categories. The first category is the liars (see the above). Then, there is a second group of men who are aptly titled, "anxious attics." These are the brothers who's desperation for immediate sexual gratification includes, asking if they can come over at 2:00AM for a booty call. Now, I know sometimes you might "feel it," and I'm not trying to judge, but doesn't that sound a little suspicious? I mean, if you're willing to give it up that quickly, regardless of what it is you're giving up, doesn't alarms go off in your head? I mean the one on your shoulders! I know for some of us, it's no different than meeting someone in the club and taking them home, or even clocking in that third shift at Piedmont or Grant Park, but you have to ask yourself, is it all worth it? From what I understand, the answer is a resounding, YES! Regardless of how bad it sounds, or what it may imply, the desire to have sex, whenever, wherever, and however, is a reality in which few will admit, but many would be willing to participate.

Third in our category of cyber sex soul brothers would include, " on the DL" men. Translated to mean, "Down Low." These brothers are either married; have a girlfriend, have a boyfriend, has issues with his own sexuality, or worse yet, is faking the funk, wanting you to believe that he is a rough neck looking to find the right brother to bring him out, so to speak. Which would also make this brother a member of first category.

The most endearing are the "Sincere" fourth category of brothers. These men are usually those who are genuine about finding and meeting a potential friend or mate. Their screen names are respectable. They refrain from cyber and/or phone sex, and their profiles commonly include phrases like, "Seeking a long-term relationship."

Of course, there's always the fifth category of brave souls who belong in the "Pulpit On Line." They are brothers, and sometimes sisters, who feel obligated to quote scriptures and preach the gospel to the Homosexual Whore Mongers and Heathens of the world. Suffice it to say they are usually deflected by well-read brothers, and snap queens who shoot and cut away their dogma into oblivion.

Then, finally there are those who just want to have fun, and may not fit into a particular category, but will frequent all of them. These brothers are seemingly the majority. They usually log on from boredom, or even horniness, but the fact remains, they're just out to kill time. Their most interesting quality is that, they're usually former members of the aforementioned categories. Unfortunately, they may have had so many bad experiences that they cancelled all late night hook-ups, and/or their search for a love connection. Or maybe, they simply refused to play the cyber sex game from the start.

Who knows? For some, a simple posting, a web page, or a "Instant Message" to a brother on their buddy list is enough to satisfy them. Needless to say the rest of us are still out there in cyber space. See you on line!

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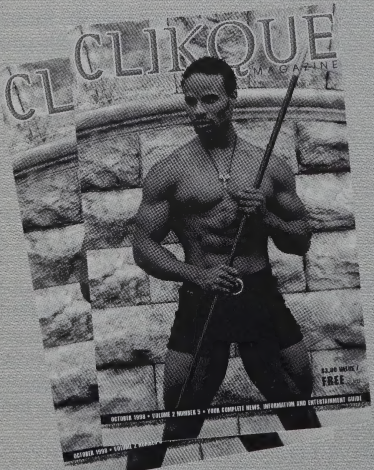
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Continued: **CHANGING OF THE GUARDS** *from page 11*

change came about. An undisclosed source speculates that "maybe" the Fusion owners and staff members were not particularly enchanted by Mr. Carter's reportedly "lack of people skills". A crucial element that is necessary in order to survive in this type of business. The same source speculates that "maybe" management was displeased with the drop in numbers during the past few weeks. Also, the undiisclosed source speculates that "maybe" Mr. Carter got too comfortable and did not find the need to change-up or advertise his weekly line-up. It is our impression that Art Mann, GM at Fusion wants a new, fresh group of individuals to take Fusion to a new level. A level that he feels only Black Gay Men Together can elevate it to.

Giving Back To The Community?

As Explained to me, Black Gay Men Together is an organization comprised to six young men. They are Reginald Thomas, Martin Little, Leondra Robinson, and Darroe Johnson from Atlanta, Kirt Robinson and Eric hunt from Washington DC. "We are very excited " said Reggie, "many of us are from Atlanta and have been a part of the black gay community for many years and have been a part of the Fusion Fridays since it's birth. Finally we have the freedom to take it to a new and exciting direction and make it bigger and better than ever!" Black Gay Men Together hopes to use this opportunity to bring many facets of black gay culture and expressions to the forefront here in Atlanta, America's most richly populated black gay market. The complete aim and purpose of BGMT is driven by the current success of Fusion Fridays and their desire to expand and offer first class social options to the community. A major goal the organization is setting for itself is the formation of a coalitions of club owners and promoters that will band together and sponsor activities and functions in an attempt to raise money to donate to various organizations such as ITLA, Inc., AID Atlanta and other organization in need of assistance.

So often we see promoters and club owners smile at the long lines of patrons waiting to strut their stuff, drink and strut some more. Rearly do you hear of them giving back to those that have supported and continue to support them night after night, week after week all year long. This form of giving is one that is usually found in the white gay community, and I find it particularly encouraging to see a group of black gay men willling go lend a helping hand.

Continued: **SUPER HEREOS** *from page 13*

Mrs. Greenburg listened attentively and replied, "What we consider high risk behavior, or that which would fall into the high risk category would include; homosexual sex, blood transfusion, IV drug users, a cardiovascular disease, and even some health care workers who think they may gotten needle pricks while on duty."

Though, I understood their precaution, it still wasn't good enough. As I was about to fire my next load of questions, I was transferred again. "Hello. Blood services." The soft female voice answered. Angered, I hung up. Then, having taken three deep breaths, I called back and spoke with Sarah who echoed Greenburg, but added. "Others in the high risk category are persons born in Central Africa. There's a new strand of HIV there, and we don't have the proper testing materials for it yet." Sarah concluded.

Finally, I called the CDC. I prepared for the usual transfers when a doctor who chose to remain anonymous, volunteered the information I was seeking. "Yes." He said. "We test all blood for the anti-body, but the window period of thirty days to develop the test wouldn't pick it up. That window period is when blood is considered the zero convert factor. Inevitably, it means there's a fraction of a chance that you can get the virus. Besides, the FDA ruled that if your lifestyle puts you at risk, then we can't accept your donation. I apologize for the embarrassment, and any inconvenience."

"Thank you!" I said. Someone had given me a more scientific answer. All along, I knew that they were protecting innocent lives, but would've it have been easier to explain the zero convert factor in the first place? Instead, I got, "Sorry, you're gay, and we can't use your blood! You want some cookies?"
Although, I was unable to save that particular day at the blood drive, my faith in super heroes was renewed with the anonymous doctor. In a way, he saved me. It was something I'll never forget. Just like I'll never forget that Mr. Martinez is the reason why I still get goose bumps when calculating a math equation.

ASK Bianca

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,1200 Mckinney St. Suite # 411-101, Houston Texas 77010. Or email her C/o Clikquem@aol.com

Hello Kids,

I am so pleased to be back from our month long vacation which was splendid. Killer must have gotten a job as a flight attendant because he has been flying all over the globe lately. Chicago, St Louis and Baltimore, seem to be the route he his holding these days, but good for him. I am enjoying my new found freedom and space while he has been away and I have started knitting his Christmas sweater since they always come home to where they belong. I am looking forward to the holidays as this is the time of the year I get to tell the family just how good things are with me, since that is the only time I see them and they live for my stories which I really have to thank you for. This year I think I will just give them all copies of my column in Clikque and skip my annual report. Enough of me and my sordid life, lets' get on to the business at hand. This months letters were just as I expected, man problems and Monica Lewinsky in every body's business. A message to that Girl. While I can share killer with them other hoes, if you put your mouth on killers piece, I am going to cut you because my name is not Hillary! It is Bianca!!

Love and Penis, Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I have recently found out that my boyfriend of seven years has been having an affair with a friend of ours for the past year and I am going to leave his ass. As soon as I can find a place to live I am out of here. I am sick of his shit and his playing me like this. He pays the bills , does the laundry sometimes, cooks and the sex is good, but why did he have to do this to me. I hate him and I am outa here. That no good son of a bitch is going to miss me and pay dearly for what he has done to me.

No one treats Josephina like shit and gets away with it.

Dear Josephina,

I know that is not your name but that is okay. Sounds to me like you are the one who is going to miss him and I don't see from your letter where he has treated you like shit. Sounds like you have a good man to me and you are the sorry one. The sex is good and he pays your bills, now heifer, what else on earth do you want from this man. Good dick and my bills are payed and me and killer are together forever. If he cheated for a year and you could not tell, act like you still don't know, or go find the man and your friend, Beat them both and then take your man home. If that does not work, ask this wonderful man of yours if he has time for a third girl, I am free on weekends as killer is usually out of town. Sorry to disappoint you! Love Bianca.

Dear Bianca,

I have a terrible obsession with straight men or those whom I cannot tell if they are gay or not. I live in New York and I meet these men on the train, around the corner from my job , by my house and just about anywhere I go. My problem is this. They allow me to spend money on them, we sometimes hug and they act like real gentlemen when we go out, but we never have sex and a relationship, a gay relationship never ensues. What are these men up to and how do I find out if they are gay or get them to come out.

Love sick in New York.

Dear Lovesick in NY,

Girl, how are you, I know exactly who you are and your questions baffle me. On one hand, I don't know when straight men started going out to the movies and dinner with men such as yourself, who are obviously gay. And on the other hand how straight are these men if they approach you and it gets to the point where phone numbers are exchanged. I know that the kids in New York will go out with anyone who is paying as whoring in its many forms has become quite common place. My thoughts on the matter is that you are in denial. You don't really want a boyfriend, so you date straight men, because it is safe from commitment and the pressures of sex. I could be wrong but girl, go find you a gay boy and get some dick, sounds like you need it real bad. Love Bianca

Dear Bianca,

What is Andre Mizrahi and Selvin going to do now that the Mizrahi fashion house has closed and gone out of business?

Catorce, NY

Dear Catorce,

This is an advice column not a gossip mill nor the morning paper. Love Andre Mizrahi to death but I am not his secretary. Why don't you ask him this question or have your people call his people. I don't think his house has much to do with Isaacs, but if so, I don't give a damn. This is not what the Bianca column is about and anyone with ideas such as this, address them to the proper people because I am likely to make up a story so you can go gossip, that the Mizrahi Ball House is closing as well and Andre, Selvin and Jack are forming the House of 14th Street or better yet they all became Revlons. What ever! You are real trifling and if space permitted I would have printed your whole letter full of speculations as to what Andre is going to do or should do, Get a Life!!!!

Bianca

Let Bianca Help You With Your Problems.

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

ARIES

Aries- Don't be a fool for love. Fall out of love with the concept and find a deserving person, not the next man who looks at you twice. Love is at your door-step but you are looking into the sky, when the man is standing directly ahead of you.

TAURUS

Taurus- Marry that Cancer man who has been hounding you. He is a really great person with much to offer. He may be a little needy but an absolutely wonderful human being. You are at a peak in your life , share it with someone special.

GEMINI

Gemini- Your split personality is about to merge into one and you will be a happy human being. The summer is gone but your favorite time of the year is coming, so get ready to live and get laid.. I mean paid.

CANCER

Cancer- Your new found independence will take you to greater heights. Your friends will appreciate you for being yourself as you let go of your obsession with that man who could not care less if you breathe. Girlfriend you are too good to be hanging on to a sinking ship. Beauty awaits you so dress to impress this month.

WE'RE RIGHT ON TARGET....... AREN'T WE?
CLIKQUE MAGAZINE —
GET INTO IT!

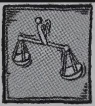
LEO

Leo- Stop holding out on that man of yours. He is ready for the commitment but you don't trust him. Everyone needs intimacy so give yourself a chance to be truly blessed by this dream of a man.

VIRGO

Virgo- Keep your eyes on the prize. Stay focused and you will accomplish your goals, including snatching that piece of trade. You will be one happily dating diva by mid to end of October with the light at the end

LIBRA

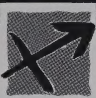


Libra- The caring human being that you are needs some tender loving care as well. It is your turn to be pampered and cuddled. So, as Halloween approaches, don't worry, you won't be scared because all your needs will be taken care of by someone real special.

SCORPIO

Scorpio- We know you have a bag full of tricks just waiting for Halloween to come, but my dear, the sweet you will win this year and you will be doing nothing but treating. Your kindness is about to be rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS



Sagitaurius- It is a new beginning for you, so shine. The closet has been cleared of its skeletons and even those who have known you forever, are amazed at the new you. Your bountiful supply of men is about to increase further so get ready to live.

CAPRICORN

Capricorn- The good you has exploded as the heat is dying down and things are getting cooler. The sexual tiger in you has been let loose so you will find yourself just wanting more. Your mate will be happy as he has always been wanting more.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius- Love is still getting stronger for you and yours. You have weathered the storms and the next few months will be sheer bliss. Don't get too complacent though, as caring is an ongoing action.

PISCES

Pisces- Despite your need for variety you must admit that there is something about commitment that you enjoy. Your day is coming soon when you will be on top of the world and feel like it. A love relationship grows stronger.

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GET INTO IT!

Lil The Poet's Corner

CLUB DYNAMICS

Damone M. Burchette

Weeping as they enter the door, the walls take them in with a warm embrace, loving.......

Relaxing, smiling, warm, and bright; centered on the same skin-same body-same kind, mirrors all around.

The music starts, the doors open, and the cycle continues...The Music gets louder, the Holy Ghost comes; weep no more. Possessed by the music, elevated to a higher place; cymbals clash in ears.

They begin to scream and shout and are transformed into freed slaves all over again.

Touching starts, shirts are being removed; Africa comes home.......

Communion is given every night, for those that thirst after righteousness sake; for they are filled. Purifying their vocal chords for the praise and worship; as they weep through their feet, as they dance all night long.

The ancestor's arrive, and the lessons begin, love Spirit will all your mind, body, and soul and your brethren as yourself.

The elders retreat to the High Tower, with its smoothing melodies and soothing beats, the chains are removed.......

As the weeping has stopped, and the light has arrived; Africa rejoices, for Her children are free.

This is club dynamics to me.

BLESSINGS

Anonymous

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm sounds each morning...
Thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are those who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible...
Thank you, Lord, that I can see. There are many who are blind.

Even though the first hour of my day is hard, when socks are lost, toast is burned, attitudes rising... Thank you, Lord for my family.

Even though the routine of my job is the same...
Thank you, Lord for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no jobs.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day, and wish my circumstances were not quite so modest... Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life.

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CLIKQUE

If you have something that you would like to share with the rest of us, please submit it to:

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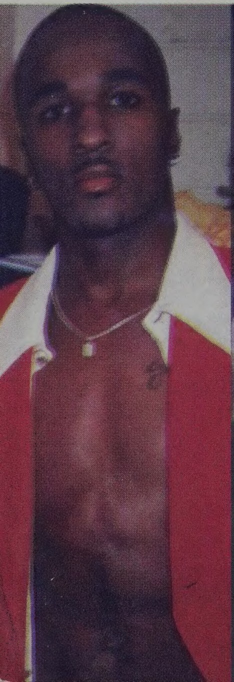

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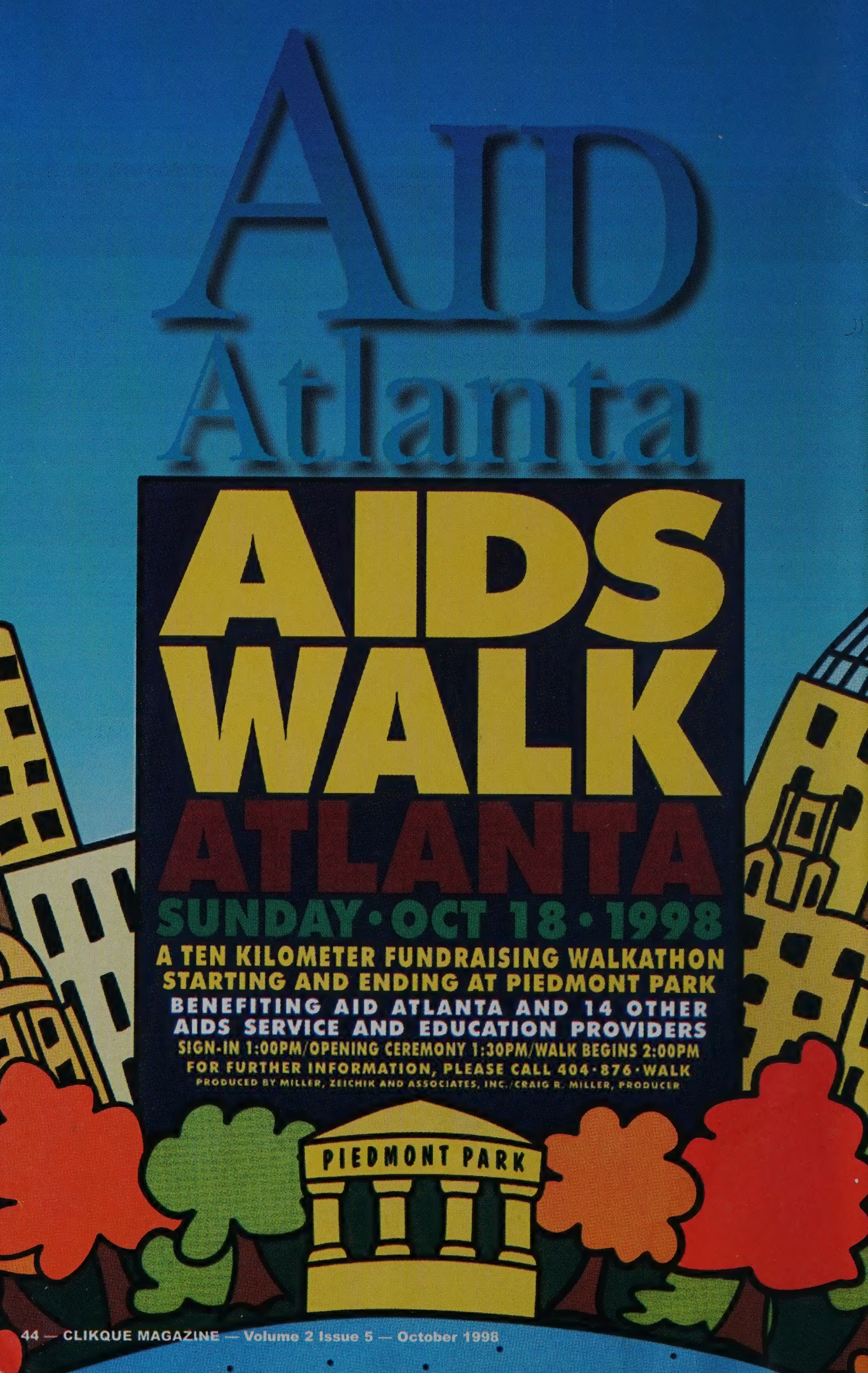

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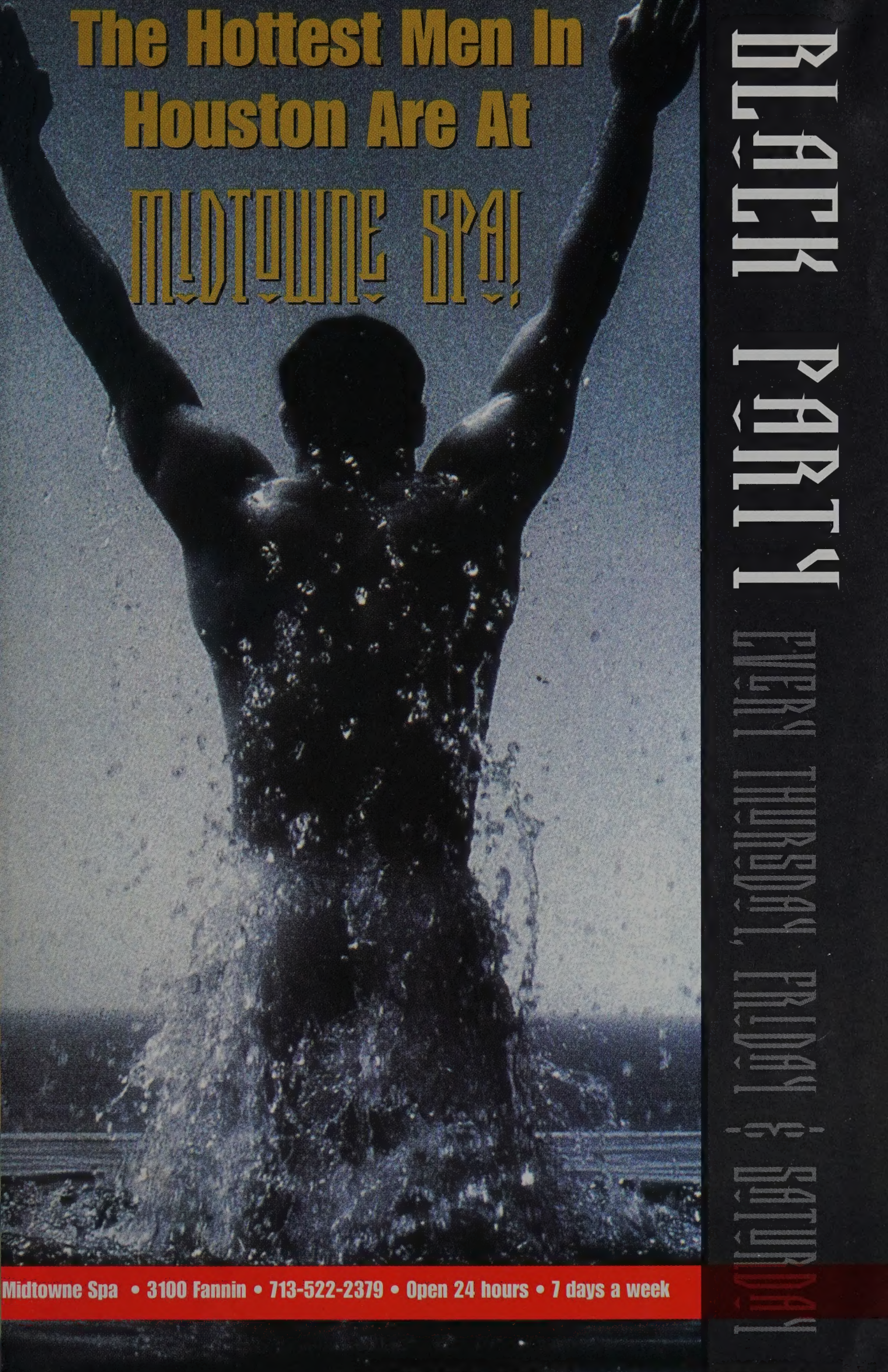
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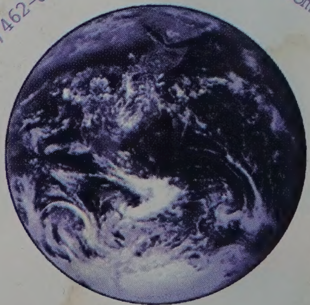

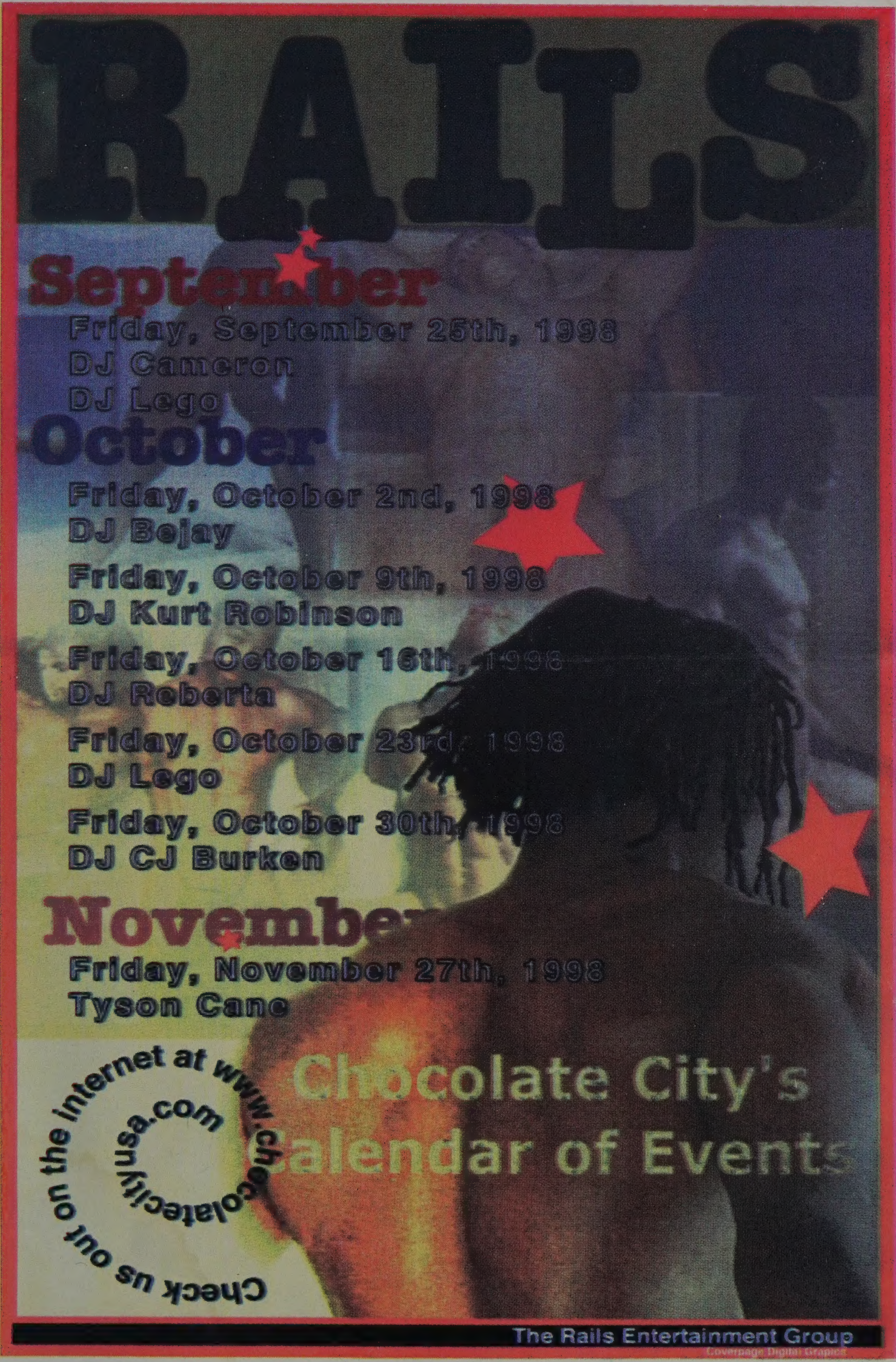

RAILS

September

Friday, September 25th, 1998
DJ Cameron
DJ Lego

October

Friday, October 2nd, 1998
DJ Bejay

Friday, October 9th, 1998
DJ Kurt Robinson

Friday, October 16th, 1998
DJ Roberta

Friday, October 23rd, 1998
DJ Lego

Friday, October 30th, 1998
DJ CJ Burken

November

Friday, November 27th, 1998
Tyson Cane

Chocolate City's Calendar of Events

Check us out on the Internet at www.chocolatecityusa.com

The Rails Entertainment Group

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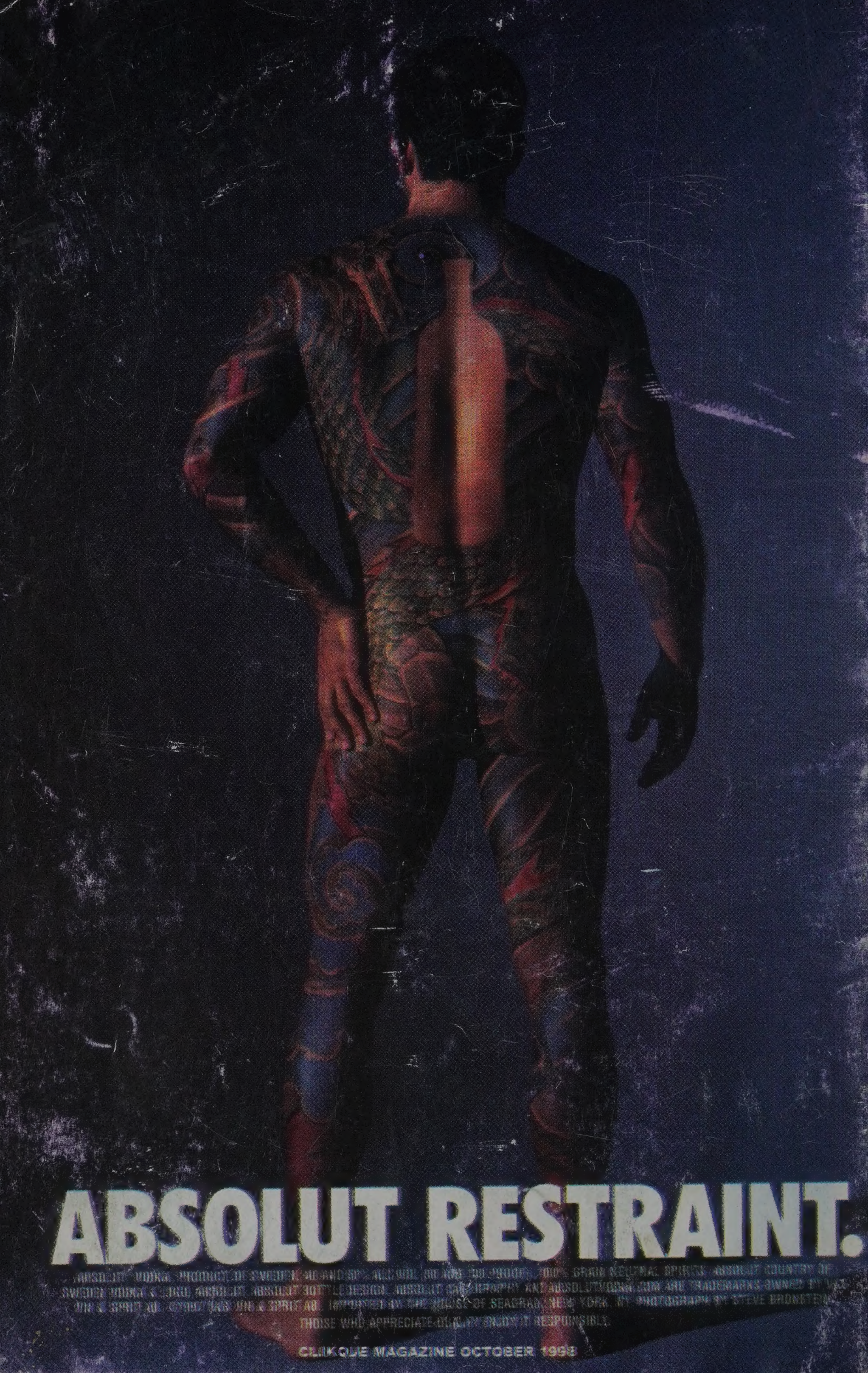
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wednesday

The Otherside
Hump Nite
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DJ Smash

friday

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Hip Hop/R&B - Vybe Room - DJ Smash
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Hip Hop/Reggae - Mainroom - DJ Smash
Old Skool/House - Vybe Room - Guest DJ's
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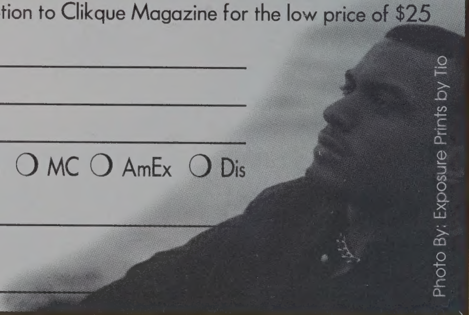

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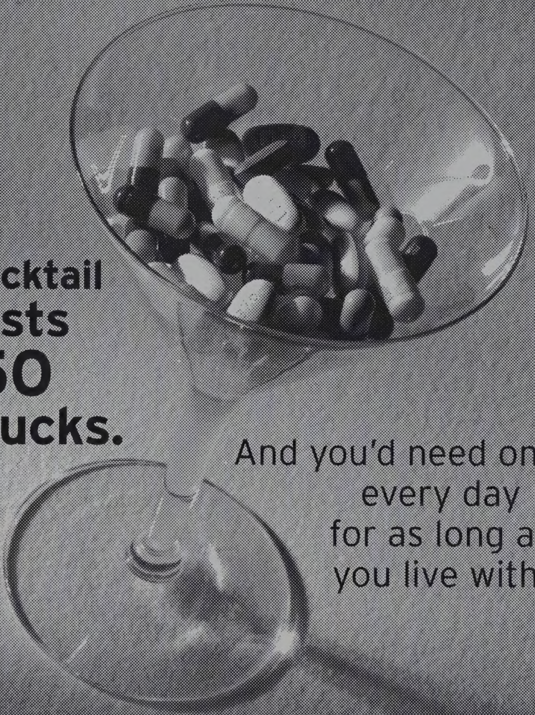

This cocktail costs over 50 bucks.

And you'd need one
every day
for as long as
you live with HIV.

AIDS is still a threat to our community. Play it safe.

AID Atlanta

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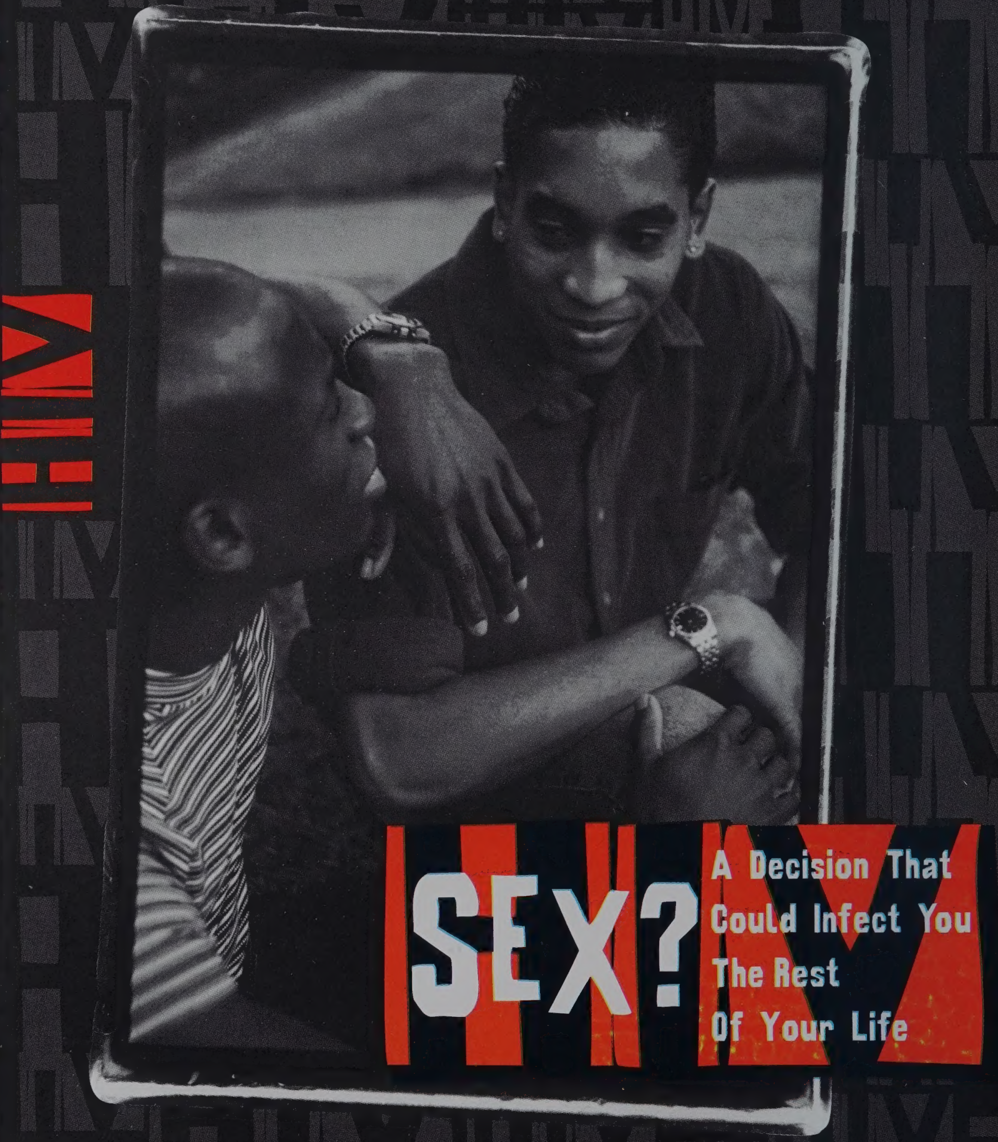
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The Rest
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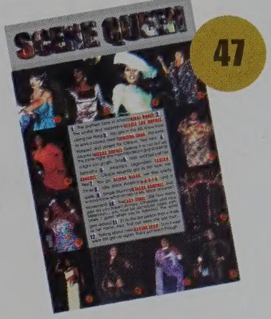
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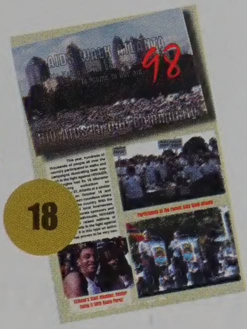
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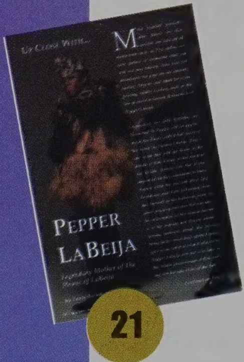
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ON THE COVER

The Legendary Mother of the House Of LaBeija & Cast Member of the Hit Movie, Paris Is Burning,

Pepper LaBeija

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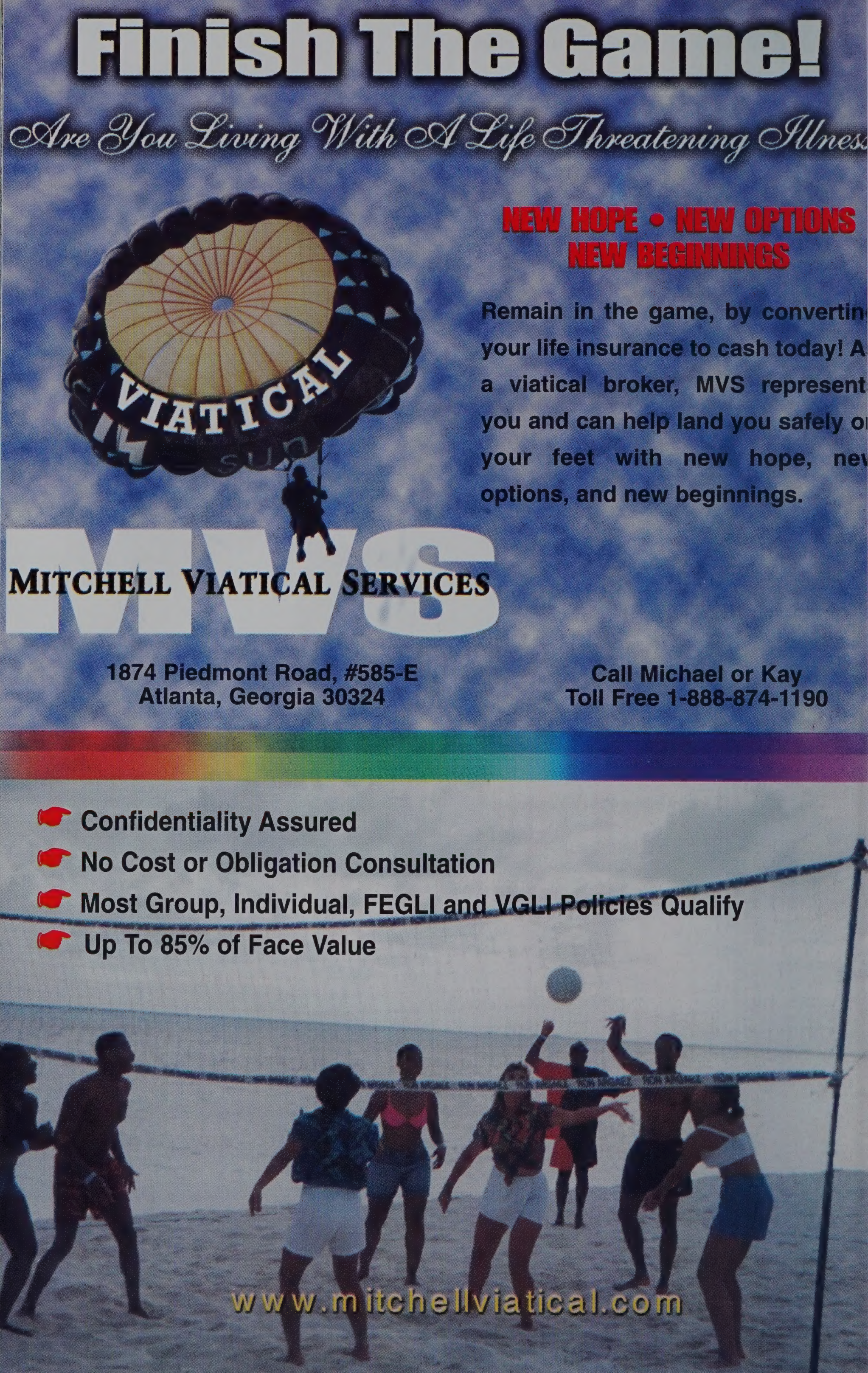

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HIV/AIDS HEADLINERS

Clinton announce massive HIV aid for black community

WASHINGTON (CNN) — On Wednesday Oct 28th, 1998 President Clinton announce a multi-million dollar initiative to combat HIV and AIDS in the African-American community.

The package, which totals more than $156 million, is aimed at addressing the spread of AIDS among blacks — the fastest-growing AIDS population.

The hope is to help those like Elsie Carter, an African-American who has had AIDS for 3 years.

She said she's not sure if she was infected through drug use or prostitution.

"To be truthful, I didn't care," she said. "All I wanted was something that was going to make me feel better than what I was feeling, and I was hurting a lot back then."

Though the road to HIV is paved with intravenous drug use and unprotected sex, these issues have been taboo subjects in the African-American culture.

"We have a code of silence and we just don't like to talk about those things," said J. Cornelius Baker of the National Association of People With AIDS. "And the reality is silence equals death."

Some leaders in the African-American community say they believe the rapid spread of AIDS among blacks has created a national health emergency.

"What is most striking about this whole situation is that every hour seven Americans become infected with HIV — three of those seven Americans are African-Americans," said Dr. Beny Primm of the National Minority AIDS Council.

That is why political pressure has been brought to bear by the congressional black caucus, black doctors and others in the minority AIDS network.

AIDS statistics for blacks contrast sharply with the 47 percent decline in AIDS deaths in the overall population last year.

Leader say access to health care may not be as big an issue as trust in the health care system, sticking to a medical regimen and changing bad habits.

Life expectancy in sub-Sahara Africa hit hard by AIDS

UNITED NATIONS (CNN) — Children born today in 29 sub-Sahara African nations face a life expectancy of just 47 years because of the toll the AIDS pandemic is taking on the region, according to the latest population report from the United Nations.

The life expectancy figure, included in a population report due to be released Wednesday, represents a 16-year drop, the United Nations said.

However, the population in the 29 African countries is expected to remain the same or continue to climb because fertility in these nations is high, the U.N. report states.

Last year, AIDS killed 2.3 million adults and children, and 30 million people are currently infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, officials said. According to the U.N. report, 91 percent of the deaths occurred in 34 countries — 29 in sub-Sahara Africa.

The report says the demographic impact of AIDS "is expected to intensify in the future," especially in the nine African nations where more than 10 percent of the adult population is infected with HIV: Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"By 2010-2015, the average life expectancy at birth in these countries could be only 47 years. In the absence of AIDS, it would have been expected to reach 63 years. This represents 16 years of life expectancy lost to AIDS," the U.N. report said.

Earlier this month, the South African government launched a nationwide campaign to increase AIDS education and correct common misunderstandings about the killer disease.

The United Nations has said nearly 13 percent of South Africa's adult population is infected with HIV, and that an estimated one out of 10 infected people don't realize they have the virus.

Other world population projections: Some other world population projections included in the U.N. population report: The world population estimate stood at 5.9 billion in mid-1998, and was growing by 1.33 percent a year, an average of 78 million people. Nations with the highest population growth are: India, China, Pakistan, Indonesia, Nigeria, the United States, Brazil, Bangladesh, Mexico and the Philippines. Depending on future fertility trends, the world's population in 2050 is projected to be between 7.3 billion to 10.7 billion. Africa has the highest population growth rate of all major regions in the world — 2.36 percent. During the last two years, Africa's population, currently 749 million, surpassed Europe's, which is currently 727 million.

The population estimates and projections are prepared every two years by the Population Division of the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The figures are used throughout the U.N. system.

EDITORIAL

BY LEWIS NICHOLSON

The millennium is fast approaching and it is hard to believe that it is already November 1998. Usually at this time of year we are forced to reflect upon our lives and its accomplishments.

For Gay people this can be an extremely difficult time. Tradition dictates that this is a time for families to get together and laud the efforts of those that have done well, and encourage those who need a boost. For Gay children it is usually a time to lie about whom we are dating or hope that the question of when we will be getting married never comes up.

After my horrendous ordeal of my parents finding out that I was gay, since I was outed and did not come out voluntarily, it has been fun watching my brothers and sisters quickly change the subject of my impending, never happening marriage when a cousin or uncle would introduce the subject.

Two years ago they gave up and one could say they announced my sexuality, as if I was a debutante of some sort. It was slightly embarrassing at the time, but it is so good to not, have to hide anymore, even though I miss watching my immediate family try to shield me from my tongue wagging, venom spewing relatives. Because of our royal blackness and strong religious beliefs, the Nicholsons' celebrate Christmas in a much more grand fashion than they do Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for me has become a second family affair. A few years ago I realized that most of my friends hated the Thanksgiving ritual at their own homes and we would all literally race away from our family homes, as if we were in a serious car chase with the police. We decided that we would have ourselves a splendid Gay Thanksgiving.

During the first celebration we gave thanks for boyfriends, the many gorgeous men we had and Helmut Lang and Gianni Versace, all against the back drop of beautiful flowers and the sound track from, "Waiting to exhale". Last year Prada was high on the thank you menu, for making belts that my former roommates in New York Live for. We Thanked God for our families, but we were even more thankful for friends who understood us.

Thanksgiving will never be the same for us again. This year we celebrate in the nation's capitol with the hopes that the President will stop by for the after party. The fearful days of going home for Thanksgiving are over and we now look forward to our Thanksgiving celebration. I hope that those of you with similar Thanksgiving fears will get together with your friends and have a real Thanksgiving celebration this year, because we have a lot for which to give thanks. You have ample time to prepare. We have jobs, cars, strength, food on our plates, education, and more importantly we have each other. So this Thanksgiving does not be sad or depressing ,get together with your friends and have a blast of a thankful time. For those of you who have traditional families who have accepted you, thank God specially for them and let them know, just how happy you are, that you could bring your boyfriend home for the holiday.

Let us not forget to thank God for this great Nation in which we live and his many blessings. Finally, remember to give thanks for the publisher as well as the founding members of this magazine without whom you would not be reading this today. Until next month, play hard, but remember to play safe.

Lewis.

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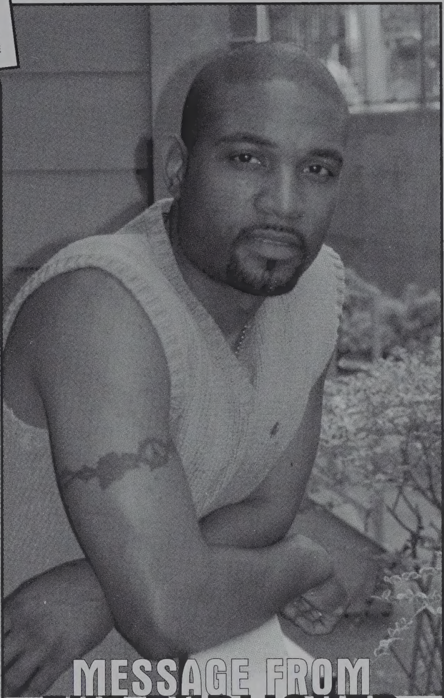

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of you that have taken the time to give us feedback on our progress and short-comings thus far.

Please be assured that each comment, suggestion or criticism, be they constructive or not, are given the highest priority and consideration. Clikque Magazine is not only the property of it's publisher, but rather, it also belongs to you, my loyal readers. I acknowledge that without your support and continued interest, this venture will not be successful.

So continue to send your comments and suggestions, and with your help and continued support, we can make Clikque Magazine the best that it can be.

Dwight.

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Nestor Zapata
Cover Coordinator

JUST Issues

COLUMN

MONTHLY COLUMN BY CRAIG WASHINGTON

If clarity is our friend then discord may be considered a helpful acquaintance. Now let me be clear, I'm talking about polite disagreement, without the accompanying dose of shade, bile, and venom. And trust, the kids can agree to disagree with no lack of candor or honesty. We can learn so much from our "arguments" when we challenge each other without coming for one another.

Here's a perfect example. Last September, Keith Boykin (author of "One More River To Cross and former E.D. of the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum) shared his reflections on Community-building among black lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, abd transexual folk. His remarks summoned a flurry of swift responses many of which were critical of Mr. Boykin's ideas. I have collected an impressive stack of e-mail recording this voluminous national discourse. To my surprise (what's up with my expectations?) most of the replies were respectful, however, vehemently they may have disagreed with Mr. Boykin or each other.

But it wasn't the model behavior that razzed my berry. It was the fact that so many of us were engaging each other with serious intellectual rigor. Every day for about 2 weeks, I could tap into a wide stream of exchange distilled from different styles and viewpoints. There were great strategies offered for publishing all that chitchat and making it accessible to those who are not online. It was hot.

And that made me think of Hotlanta and the possibilities here. Although there are a number of organizations that feature group discussions, what about those of us who don't like clubs or large meetings? I have heard some of the most insightful analysis about black gay folk whispered at the corner of a smoke-filled bar (I was just passing by) or shouted above some tribal house mix. While such conversations are highly valuable they can't be replicated. That clever turn of a phrase or simple profound summation is often forgotten and forever lost. Many of us can recall a departed loved one whose remarks we'd love to have written down. My good friend Duncan Teague often urges black gay men to write more, given our often apparent mortality.

So what's all this fuss about, you ask? It's a call to arms and pens and keyboards. Whether it's this new club or that lesbian erotic poetry reading; chat rooms or tea rooms; religion or regentrification we need to write more about it all, if for no reason other than to vent, its okay. You don't have to be a "writer" to write - you just need to have something to say. And you never know how your words may provide "clarity" or encouragement or amusement. You may even elicit very, shall we say, sharp counterpoints but all that, adds flavor to the mix.

Now we are blessed with Clikque, a slick glossy mag that's by, for and about us. It's not only attractive, it has substance. And it can be an ongoing public forum for us. From the comfort of our home, we can speak our mind with no inhibition. I would like to use this space to invite dialogue, debate, and of course, our helpful acquaintance "discord" which when coupled with our friend "clarity" may bring forth all kinds of revelations. In the coming months, some things I write may rub you the wrong or the right way or just plain piss you off. Whatever! If you hate stamplicking there's always e-mail. As long as you just exercise those digitals and express yourself.

Peace, CW

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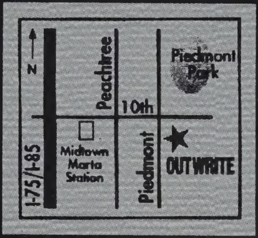

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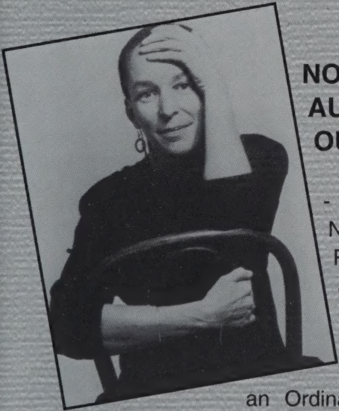


NOVEMBER AUTHOR AT OUTWRITE

- Wednesday, November 11, 8 PM: Reading and signing by Pearl Cleage, What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day, Avon, $12.00. An Oprah's Book Club selection.

The debut novel by Atlanta's Pearl Cleage novel begins with Ava Johnson returning to her hometown after more than a decade with the brothers and sisters in Atlanta, which, she had been told, was the place to be if you were young, black and had any sense at all. Her fabulous career plans have been smashed by testing positive for HIV, and the once-thriving resort community she returns to is now plagued with unemployment, crime and despair. What she planned as a short family visit becomes a touchstone with her past.

Pearl Cleage is the author of Mad at Miles: A Black Woman's Guide to Truth and Deals with the Devil and Other Reasons to Riot. Her plays have been produced in such theaters as Alliance Theater Company, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Kennedy Center. Cleage is a teacher at Spellman College, co-founder of Catalyst Magazine, contributing editor of Ms. Magazine and a regular contributor to Essence Magazine. She was also the press secretary for Mayor Maynard Jackson.

South Africans brace for Truth Commission report

CAPE TOWN, South Africa. It is not an easy story to tell: a tale of prejudice, torture and killing that spans more than three decades and involves an entire nation.

But telling the story is the task of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which will present its final report to the nation next week.

On October 29, Desmond Tutu will give the3,500-page tome to President Nelson Mandela and mark the end of the commission's trawl through the violence that wracked South Africa during the apartheid era.

The report is the culmination of the commission's work since it was set up in 1995, a year after all-race elections ended white-minority rule. It will describe the abuses of the past, try to explain why they happened and apportion blame.

"The report is an important milestone," Truth Commissioner Mary Burton said. "It has been a very necessary, but very difficult experience for individuals and the country."

Some will be relieved, others angered

Some whites, burdened by evidence of the brutality of the past, may be relieved the probe is finally over. Others may be angry and think it unfairly blames those who claim they were only fighting communism.

For many blacks, the report means the story of their suffering has finally been told, and that victims have been given a chance to speak out. But some may feel cheated; most of apartheid's top leaders are believed to have admitted nothing.

During its three years, the commission has rarely been out of newspaper headlines. People, such as police death-squad leader Eugene de Kock — dubbed "Prime Evil" by his own men — horrified the world as they described cruel deaths meted out to black activists.

But among the horrors, there have been lights of hope, like physiotherapist Gin Fourie, whose daughter was killed during an attack by black gunmen on a Cape Town student bar.

Fourie supported giving amnesty to the three men who killed her daughter. After they walked free from jail, she hugged them.

Criticism of both sides expected

Truth Commission staff are tightlipped about the report's details. However, it seems likely that senior figures from both sides of the conflict will be criticized.

In recent months, the commission sent about 200 letters warning people they may be portrayed negatively. Local newspaper reports say liberation heroes like Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, and current Deputy Defense Minister Ronnie Kasrils are on the list, as are senior apartheid figures like former President P.W. Botha.

Though the blame for the past conflict will overwhelmingly be placed on white governments and their brutal security services, the African National Congress was nervous enough about the report to request a meeting with the commission earlier this month.

The commission refused, to avoid appearing biased.

ANC spokesman Thabo Masebe said his party was told it could be implicated in human rights violations for planting land mines on border farms and for abuses at military camps in Angola. But Masebe said the ruling ANC had nothing to fear.

"We have not hidden anything," he said. "Ours was a just war." On numerous occasions, Tutu, a former Anglican archbishop and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, has stressed his belief that those who struggled against apartheid, even if they used violence, were on the side of justice.

The "just war" concept is likely to be discussed at length in the report.

Thousands seek amnesty

Even after the report, the commission's work will live on. It has been swamped with 7,000 amnesty applications, and the amnesty process has been extended indefinitely.

The report itself could also be potentially explosive. Many prominent South Africans, like Madikizela-Mandela and Botha, did not apply for amnesty. They could face criminal prosecution if the report finds they committed human rights abuses.

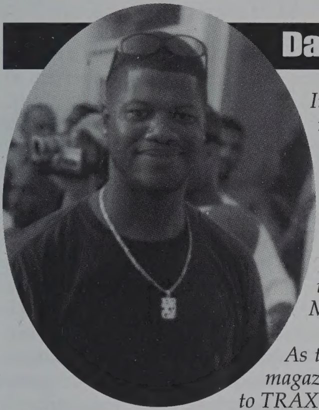
The report will likely leave many questions unanswered. Condensed from 20,500 victim statements and testimony from 140 public hearings in 61 different towns, it is a mere summary of millions of pages of evidence that will be placed in South Africa's National Archives.

As for reconciliation, the report will not immediately bridge South Africa's age-old racial divides.

"I don't think one should expect political miracles or dramatic shifts in public opinion," said Tom Lodge, professor of politics at the University of the Witwatersrand. "But I think it will contribute to a general healing."

In Memory of an Atlanta Icon

David Hampton 1963-1998



It's amazing how often we take things and people for granted. One minute I was talking to David about his next ad in Clikque and a few days later, I was reading about his passing. One positive aspect about death is that it makes us stop and take stock of ourselves: It forces us to re-evaluate the important things in life.

David Hampton, a 35 year old graduate of Hampton University in Virginia was probably one of the most popular night club promoters in Atlanta. For the past 10 years, David served as the Promotions Manager at TRAXX, the nightclub.

As the first business establishment in Atlanta to accept and support our magazine, we here at Clikque would like to show our support and say thanks to TRAXX and a man that has been extremely kind and rather accommodating to us. I remember David saying to me, how important it is for black businesses to support each other. I can also remember the day David called, and offered his support. That's not something that happens very often.

On October 5th 1998, we lost David Hampton. Yes, we have lost David's physical presence, but he will remain in the mind and hearts of the many people that he has touched over the years. As a tribute to David, today, tell the people that are important to you how much they mean to you. Remember that time waits on no man, so say it now... before you run out of time! — Dwight Powell

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Hate-crimes! Who Gives A Damn? Who?

Healing is within our grasp!

BY: CLEO MANAGO

A week ago, while in New York City gleaning over the New York Times, I noticed a front-page article entitled "Killing Shakes Complacency Of The Gay Rights Movement." The article covered a local demonstration staged in reaction to the killing of Matt Sheppard - a 21 year old, gay [White] college student from Wyoming. An estimated 5000 people, predominately White lesbians and gays, rallied, marching through major thoroughfares, paralyzing the city's streets. Concurrently, similar events took place across the nation. Vigils and even "funerals" were held to honor young Sheppard. The article's title "Killing Shakes Complacency....." referenced that previous to the Sheppard incident the gay [White] community had become relatively complacent, seemingly content with its political and social accomplishments. In recent years few protests or public demonstrations have been held.

As I read about the [White] gay/lesbian community's swell of reaction to Matt Sheppard - who has since become the poster child for hate-crimes in America - and complacency and "success" in that community, I acknowledged my strong reaction to this report and how it marginalized the lives and experiences of people like me, who are same-gender-loving (SGL), bisexual or gay/lesbian identified Black Americans. Every year of my life Blacks, regardless of gender and sexuality, have experienced murderous hate-crimes executed by White civilians and law enforcement. Violence also occurs in the community as a result of Black-on-Black contempt for Black life, but that is not the focus of this writing. Acknowledgement of it is important - these are also hate-crimes generated from the fabric of America's brutally racist legacy. During the New York City rally [White] gay/lesbian protesters displayed pictures of past victims of hate-crimes, the majority of whom were Black and Latino. Yet, the issue of hate-crimes against "gays" did not reach prominence until one person died who was prototypical of most at the rally - Matt Shepphard - a White, homosexual male.

I found Sheppard's killing disturbing, but after coming upon monthly if not weekly reports of murders and brutal assaults toward Blacks resulting from "hate-crimes," I refused to be swept away with reaction and grief by Sheppard's high-profiled tragic death. I could not emotionally afford to utilize my great capacity to care about a murdered young man, White, who died at the hands of hate. Though Matt's face filled the media landscape and my thoughts, I provided little psychic room for him because I am still in mourning over Black bodies that have piled up over recent years, months and days previous to Shepphard. I am still enduring that it appeared few cared about James Byrd - dragged to death; Sherrice Iverson - strangled to death and raped at 7 years old; Garnett Johnson - beheaded, burned alive; Antwan Sedwick, 20 years old -suspected to have been hung by two White policemen who noticed him celebrating the OJ Simpson verdict; Dante Evans 13 and his 14 year old cousin who were shot to death while playing "because they were niggers," all killed by Whites for being Black, and the list goes on and on.

There was no national rallying or extended media attention for ANY of these victims. But, more tragically than that, not many of us were around either. Yes, this is America, a country espousing to be the super power of the "free" world, but so many of its Black citizens, in this context its homosexual/bisexual Black citizens, are still politically, economically and psychologically in deep bondage. Still too disoriented to care enough about each other, to demand respect, self-determination and a quality or long life. Regardless of my forthright critique of [White] gay/lesbian racism, them not showing up to protest murder by hate-crime of Blacks, especially, Asians, Native-Americans or Latinos and prioritizing themselves is not my primary concern. My concern is how Blacks are still complacent in the wake of tragedy that effects us so severely. Though it is the epitome of White insensitivity, racism and arrogance for [White] gays/lesbians to make Matt Sheppard an icon of hate crimes, without being straight-up about that they prioritize the lives of Whites, I admire what White skin privilege and White power legacy inheritance in America has provided them. They have the courage to fight-back, they have the clarity to say "No More", they are organized enough to stop traffic in Midtown Manhattan because one of "theirs" has died. As a result of their feelings of human (and white) entitlement they enjoy great political, economic and psychological success and gain the time and space to be complacent. Yes, though the White gay community is despised and discriminated against, they still benefit from the fact that they are White in a White biased culture. I am sure their audacity is rooted in what I call White entitlement consciousness (the belief that as "White" people they are completely entitled to own what the world offers). The capacity to have entitlement consciousness is within our grasp as Black people as well. But accompanying this consciousness must be vigilance, Black love, Black SGL love, the capacity to love one's self as Black and as part of a legacy. As we have all heard, yearly Blacks spend hundreds of billions of dollars, but we typically lack the consciousness to invest

Continued On Page 37

HAPPY, SINGLE AND DATING

(A Follow-up To "Being Positive About Being Positive")

Last Month This Article Was Printed With The Last 1 Paragraph Missing. We are Pleased To Reoffer This Article To You In It's Entirety. Enjoy!

In this lifestyle, dating is already hard enough so when a life-threatening virus is factored into the picture, dating is made twice as hard. Me being the person that I have grown to be, I always try to be honest with myself and others. Honesty has never been a problem of mine, however, timing has been and still is. I cannot seem to figure out when the appropriate time is to let the person that I am dating my HIV status. Should it be on the first date, should it be right before the lights go out or should it be 3 months down the road after we have already slept together? Typically, in the past I have always laid it right on the table on the first date. I've made somewhat a test of character. If I get a phone call after they have learned about my status, then they have passed. If I do not receive a phone call, then they have failed and they are labeled as ignorant. Logically, I know that this test is unfair because I realize that people are afraid of the unknown and letting your feelings get involved with someone that could possibly die is very scary. This is why I wrote the article in last months' issue. For me, it was therapeutic and I now can assume that everyone I encounter already knows my status.

Recently, over the Labor Day weekend, I was at a friend's house and a guy literally begged my friend to give me his phone number. I took his information even though I knew that he was not my type. But, never leaving a stone unturned in my search for love, I called him. We had a nice conversation, not as nice as another one that I had during the same weekend, but nice nonetheless. We spoke a few times on the phone. Then one night I invited him over. For some reason he seemed nervous to me and I asked him if he was. He assured me that he was not nervous stating that he just had work on his mind. During the course of our conversation the topic of HIV came up and I disclosed my status to him. He seemed somewhat stunned but tried to be a good sport about it. He asked questions and even offered a story about someone that he dated in the past that was "positive". Prior to this evening we made dinner plans for the next night at 8pm. Before he left, I asked him "given all that you now know about me, do you still want to go to dinner"? He said, "yes why wouldn't I"? Four weeks later and I still have not heard from him. A few nights ago I saw him at a club. Of course my pride and that ignorant label would not allow me to say hello. The truth of the matter is that even though I knew that person was not my type, I still feel somewhat hurt and rejected. This is not the first time that a situation like this has occurred, but it is definitely not the norm for my life.

This year God has blessed me with several beautiful men, each of them special to me in their own way. Most of these men I disclosed my status to right away. Amazingly, to all of these very special people, my status did not matter but because of distance (none of these people lived in my city) the encounters fizzled or turned into great friendships. I do not claim to be psychic or anything but I think that the reason that my status did not matter to these guys is because they realized that they question how love comes. After all tomorrow is not promised to anyone.

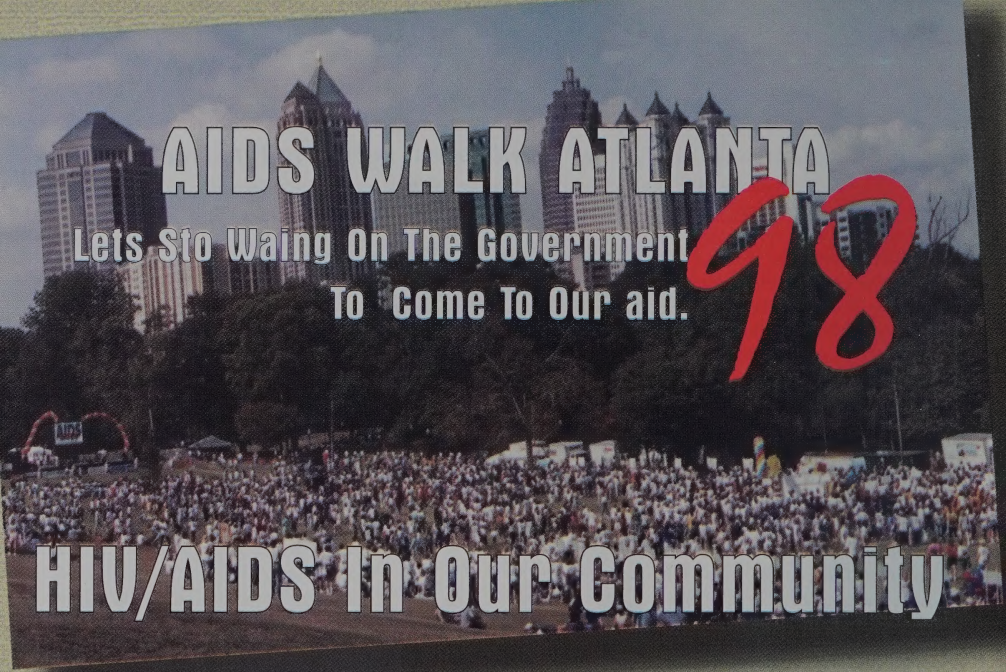
Sometimes I find myself thinking about all the people that I've dated in the past and I wonder what if? I think about all the unconditional love that I have thrown away. I don't get to immersed in it because if I did, I would be a basket case. These periods of reflections are just enough to keep me receptive to the love in my future. So I don't miss out again. It is clear that I don't have all the answers. What I do know is that I am ready for love to enter my life. Ready to share my life and love with someone that is mature and responsible enough to give me the only kind of love - unconditional love. Until this happens, I remain happy, single and dating.

BY SCOTT BOGAN

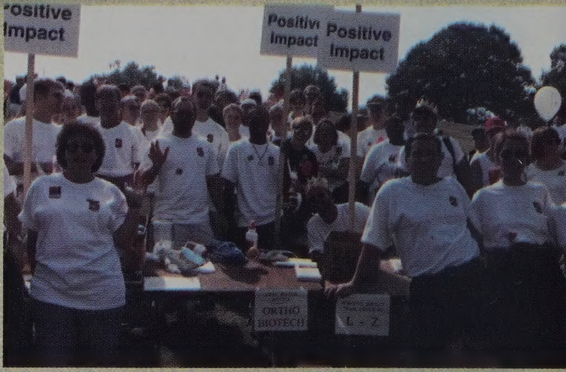
AIDS WALK ATLANTA 98

Lets Sto Waing On The Government To Come To Our aid.

HIV/AIDS In Our Community



This year, hundreds of thousands of people all over the country participated in walks and campaigns illustrating their support in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Los Angles had its 10 kilometer fundraising walkathon on September 27, Atlanta at a similar walkathon on October 16, and there have been countless others throughout the country. With the assistance of local businesses, national corporate sponsors and concerned individuals, HIV/AIDS organization raised millions of dollars to help in the fight against this disease. It is this type on activity that has proven to be


Positive Impact
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ORTHO BIOTECH
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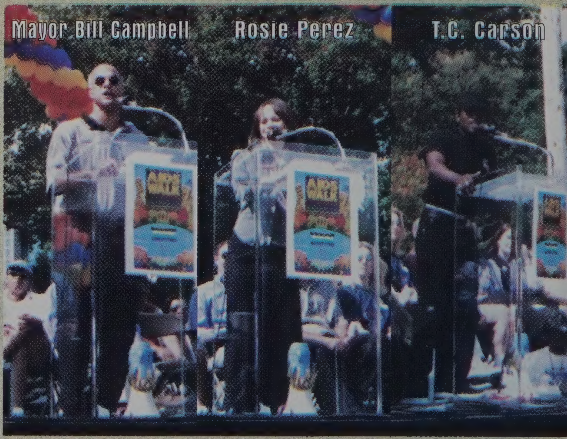
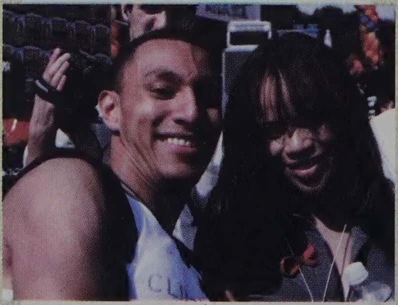
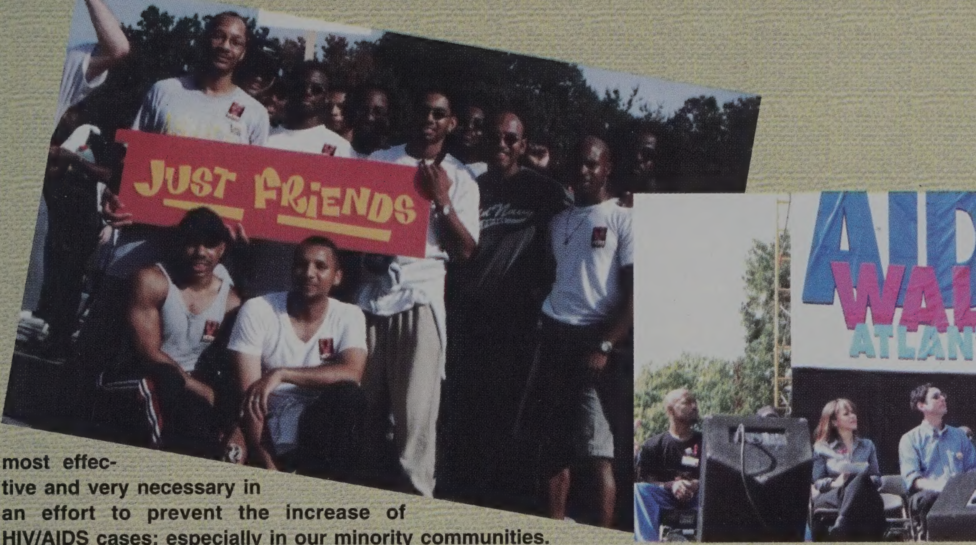
Participants at the recent AIDS Walk Atlanta


Mayor Bill Campbell
Rosie Perez
T.C. Carson
AIDS WALK
AIDS WALK



Clikque's Staff Member, Nestor Doing It With Rosie Perez



most effective and very necessary in an effort to prevent the increase of HIV/AIDS cases; especially in our minority communities. We can't and should not wait for the assistance of the government.

While the overall national cases of AIDS deaths are on the decline, reports reveal that the number of minority (African-American, Hispanic and women) AIDS cases are on the rise. A Few months ago, The National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) added the voices of it's 3000 member organizations to that of the call from the Congressional Black Caucus in an attempt to have President Clinton declare a "State of Emergency" on HIV and AIDS among African-Americans and other minority groups.

The NMAC states that there are between 240,000 and 325,000 African-Americans infected with HIV, and of that estimate, approximately 92,200 are living with AIDS. An alarming 1 in 50 African-American men and 1 in 60 African-American women are infected with HIV. Studies conducted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reveal that every hour, seven people are infect and of that number, three are African-American.

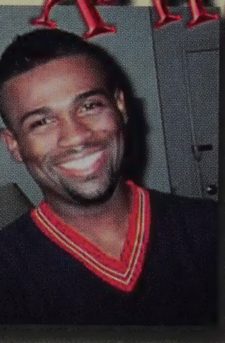
In a country that leads in HIV/AIDS research and care, African-Americans are less likely to know their HIV status; more likely to be diagnosed late in disease progression; less likely to have access to doctors with experience treating HIV/AIDS; and less likely to have access to new and promising combination drug therapies.

Data obtained from the AIDS Survival Project in Atlanta reveals that African-Americans account for 35% of all AIDS cases, yet only make up 11% of the US population. In Georgia, African-Americans account for 59% of all AIDS cases, however, African-American make up only 27% of the state population.

Conveniently, on Wednesday, October 28th, two days before the United States Conference on AIDS in Dallas, Texas and a few days before the November elections, President Clinton declared a "State of Emergency" and allocated over $158 million to minority organization fighting the spread of HIV and AIDS. While the President and his administration waited for the best opportunity, political that is, to show their support and concern for the Minority AIDS crisis, hundred have since gotten infected with this dreaded disease that has already taken so many of our friends and loved-ones. I long for the day when a politician's actions are motivated by mere compassion and concern for its citizens, rather than the possibility of attaining votes.

By Dwight Powell
Owner/Publisher, Clikque Magazine.

A Husband, A House, & A Dog



by Todd Edwards

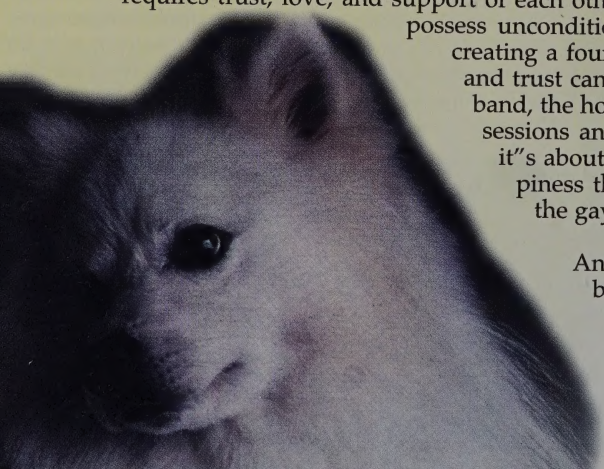
A dedicated spouse, a beautiful home and perhaps a dog (french poodle) is the ultimate achievement for an all American Colored Gal. Who are we kidding? The Lexus GS 400, the grand sissy edition, will suffice. On a serious note, companionship from that of a soul mate, a good man, can add to the luster of life, hence nurturing the traditional idea of family.

In that search for the special one, we need a man who will demonstrate such qualities as love, support, and loyalty. One who knows that love is not a feeling but rather an action. The use of the word "unconditional" associated with love is not necessarily valid, instead all commitments or acts of love and or loyalty are "conditional", that is, if you fuck your husbands best friend you might want to condition yourself to have your dick cut off. That special one should not be identified with titles, such as, Doctors, Lawyers, or CPA"s, nor should your search begin in a bar, club, or spa. If one contends to seek out traditional things that create stability, i.e., the husband, the house, and the dog, then traditional behavior in your search for that stability could possibly start with meeting that special someone through established friendships, organizations, or forums that support monogamous relationships.

One can work towards creating a foundation that will support their goals via education, or steady employment, the type of industriousness that creates stability within ourselves so that we can offer something more in our quest for companionship. Searching for that special one, and calling him your husband versus taking on the challenge of living with that significant other can give new meaning to the so called term "unconditional."

Creating a foundation within the home that you share with your partner requires trust, love, and support of each other. More importantly one should possess unconditional love for themselves prior to creating a foundation, a home, where such love and trust can be established. You see, the husband, the house, and the dog is not about possessions and or material things. No instead it"s about recognizing another level of happiness that is not often duplicated within the gay community.

And by the way, the dog is used to bite the asses of bitches who intend to disrupt the happiness, time and energy required to create such a foundation.



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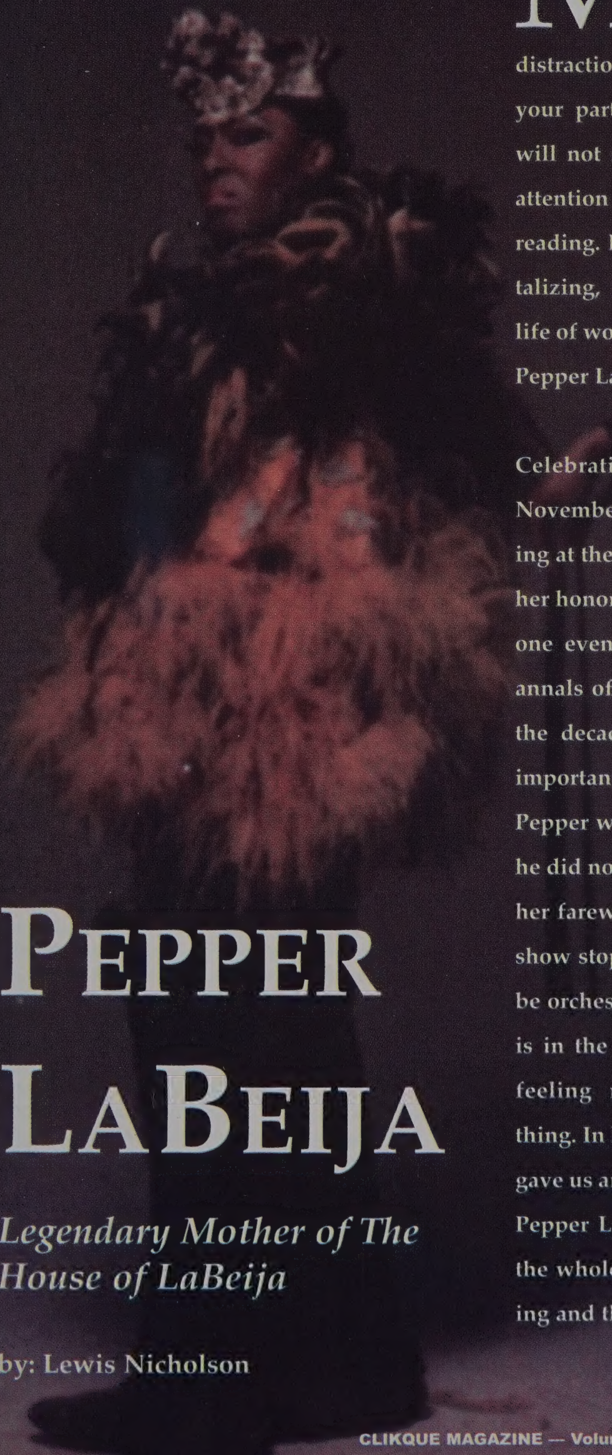


PEPPER LABEIJA

Legendary Mother of The House of LaBeija

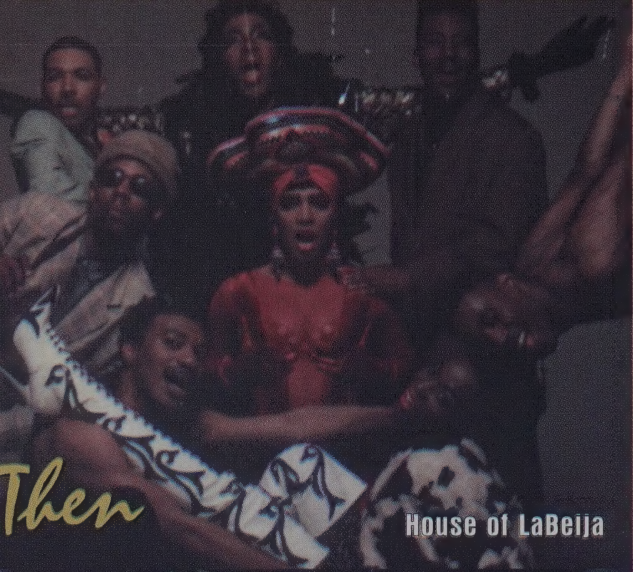
by: Lewis Nicholson

Make yourself comfortable, finish off that cocktail and turn off all distractions such as TVs, radios and your partner or roommate who just will not stop talking. Turn your full attention to the page you are currently reading. Prepare your mind for a tantalizing, totally riveting, look at the life of world re-known, Ballroom Icon Pepper Labeija.

Celebrating her 50th birthday on November 5, Pepper will be appearing at the Final Conflict Ball given in her honor, by Tommy Labeija. This is one event that will go down in the annals of Ball history as the event of the decade. Tommy felt that it was important for the community to honor Pepper while she was still alive. Also he did not want Paris Is Burning to be her farewell to the Ballroom scene. A show stopping entrance that can only be orchestrated by the woman herself is in the making and Pepper admits feeling nervous about the whole thing. In her usual high spirits Pepper gave us an earful of what it takes to be Pepper Labeija and her own take on the whole phenomenon of Ball walking and the subculture of the Ball.

Continues on Page 22

PEPPER LABEIJA *from Page 21*



House of LaBeija

House of Mugler

Born William Jackson in New York City, Pepper Labeija grew up in Augusta GA and North Carolina. Pepper attended both public and catholic schools in these cities. Pepper is the father of two grown children, a 23 year old son and a 20 year old daughter both of whom "appears to be straight" he says with a chuckle. Many will remember him from his glory days of Paris is Burning but Peppers better days were way ahead of that movie appearance. As was the story then, it remains in tact today that his mother still has problems with his being gay and refuses to discuss it.

During our talk Pepper kept reiterating the importance of a good education and having a career. He said it was necessary to know that the Balls are a side line event and not a career as these trophies cannot pay the phone bill, nor are they accepted at the grocery store. He says there are some very successful children of hers who make her real proud, but AIDA(AIDS) is killing off most of the kids and that they need to educate themselves. He showed genuine concern for the state of AIDS in the black community and wanted people to know that it is real and that we all must be careful.

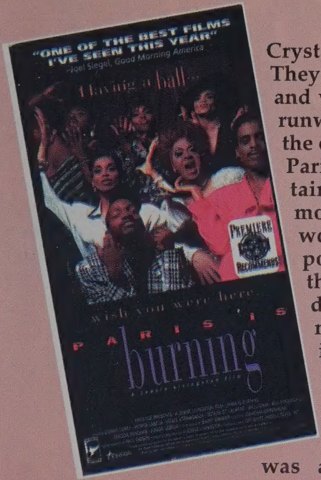
Pepper Labeija(the illusion) the Queen mother was born in the 1960s when Gay pageants were a big thing in New York City. She did a few of them with her idol and then founder of the house of Labeija, Crystal. But those pageants she says were for the white girls. No ,matter how good the black girls were we would make finals but never win. Not much has changed since then.

However winning was always important and so they started their own competition which they called a Ball, because it was designed to look like a grand affair in the fashion of how rich royals go to balls. It was an event for Drag queens only. Their goal was to mesmerize the audience, all dolled up in big stylish outfits looking like a million bucks trimmed with feathers and things and looking totally glamorous. The best dressed girl would walk away with the grand prize of the night. And so the Balls began. "Dorian Corey and I would give the biggest and best Balls back in the days," she says. I introduced Dorian to the Ballroom world and she was amazing at it. Speaking of amazing, one has to see Pepper Labeija walk a runway to get a true picture of amazing. No one can create the illusion of beauty and riches the way Pepper can without spending the kind of money on costume that the kids today spend. As Junior Labeija once put it, "Get off the floor and make room for Pepper Labeija," so we took our seats and gave Pepper the floor. Pepper spoke candidly about her life, her accomplishments and downfalls and her hopes for the future.

Pepper says the balls were born out of the pageants that the black girls could not win out on Fire Island. Early on, in the Ballroom scene, the dance form called vogueing was introduced and trust us it was not by Madonna. Vogueing began with Pepper Labeija, Paris dupree, Pierre La Wong, and

Continues on Page 23

PEPPER LABEIJA *from Page 22*


"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS I'VE SEEN THIS YEAR"
-Joel Siegel, Good Morning America
Having a ball...
wish you were here.
PARIS IS burning
PREMIERE RECOMMENDS

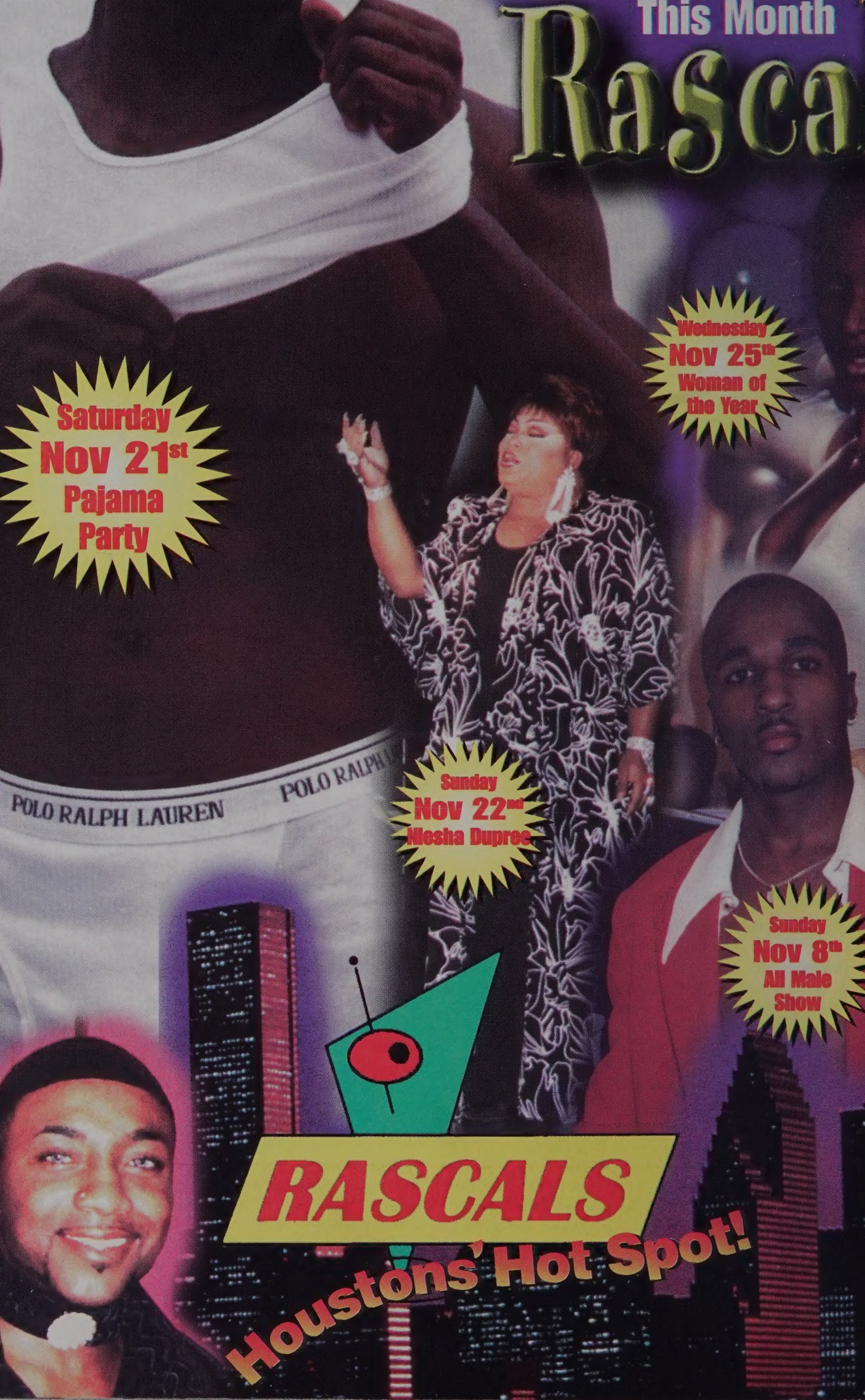
Crystal Labeija. They used to dance and walk down the runway as if it was the only runway in Paris and at certain opportune moments, they would strike a pose and keep that pose for a dramatic moment, until it was time for a new one that had onlookers gagging. "Back then it was all about the posing as we were copying the models pose from Vogue magazine." Today vogueing barely resembles its origins as the kids Pepper says, are now doing gymnastics and not Vogueing. The emphasis is no longer on the pose, but how well you can contort your body. Evolution is life and that brings about change and change is good so Pepper is not mad at the new kids. It is just different she says.

Having had a Ballroom career that spanned three decades, Pepper has seen it all, but the kids still bring more surprises. Labeija, she says was one of the original houses and is truly legendary. Having won too many trophies to remember, Pepper Labeija feels that life has been good to her. She says she has accomplished most of the things she set out to do but wishes she had made more strides in the Heterosexual world.

On the issue of Paris Is Burning she says, " at first I felt that it was a negative thing, but I have changed my mind. I got a lot of exposure form it and worldwide recognition. People from china, Europe and as far as Australia have come up to me in the street with nothing but praise." Pepper left the ball world after three decades of reigning as the unstoppable Mother of all mothers because, of her doctors' orders. "Being here was more important than leaving a legacy she says." But whether or not Pepper walks another Ball, her legacy will live on forever. As the legendary Stewart Ebony puts it, " Pepper is a true legend, she has put not just herself on the map, but others as well. People get tens just by associating with Pepper, she played no games and always created chaos on the floor. She is known all over and I think of her as an icon legend. The house of Labeija is making a come back and like Pepper said in the movie, New York city is wrapped up in being Labeija. Interesting to note, is the fact that most of the people who are legends in the Ballroom today started out as Labeijas or got their start in a house that was formed by a former Labeija. Pepper refers to the Labeija house as the School of Hard Knocks where the kids are schooled in the proper way to demolish a Ballroom floor. Legends such as André Mizrahi, Stewart Ebony and Eric Bazaar, now Hasaan Allure were all Labeijas at some point in their careers. If you get a chance to see any of these people tear up a runway, then you would have had but a small glimpse of the great legacy that Pepper Labeija left behind, when she walked away gracefully form the Ballroom scene. Speaking on the issue of what is or who is Legendary in the Ballroom scene, Pepper gave us some indication of what legendary is, as she remembers it to be. From her definition of longevity, and ability to devour the opponent and win in rare form, the houses of Revlon, Ebony, Mizrahi, Milan and Dupree would be examples of Legendary houses. Some Legendary individuals would be, Hasaan Allure, Stewart Ebony, Danielle Revlon, André Mizrahi, Duchess La Wong, David Xtravaganza and Whitney Mugler . There are others but these are the ones that came up during our little chat.

Pepper will make her final Ball appearance at the Final Conflict Ball in New York on November 7, 1998 which promises to be a real treat. Pepper Labeija was born a man and remains that way today as he is against sex changes. He says it is very traumatic and makes for a difficult adjustment. The newly made woman has no history and has to make one up and remember it as straight folks always want to know when you went to school and who you knew etc. and this traps the new girls as it is hard to keep your story straight. Also she says it is hard to look like a woman and still think like a gay boy. Pepper Labeija the Icon will always be reigning, if not in our hearts and minds her legacy will always be present in Ball history. Her mark will always be remembered by all the people she has helped and the kids she has raised , forever. We at Clikque salute the Legendary Queen mother and Ballroom Icon Pepper Labeija and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

Note: the words her and his, are used to refer to Pepper Labeija in this story to indicate the Ballroom Illusion and the real Person respectively.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Rasca
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Nov 25th
Woman of the Year
Saturday
Nov 21st
Pajama Party
Sunday
Nov 22nd
Niesha Dupree
Sunday
Nov 8th
All Male Show
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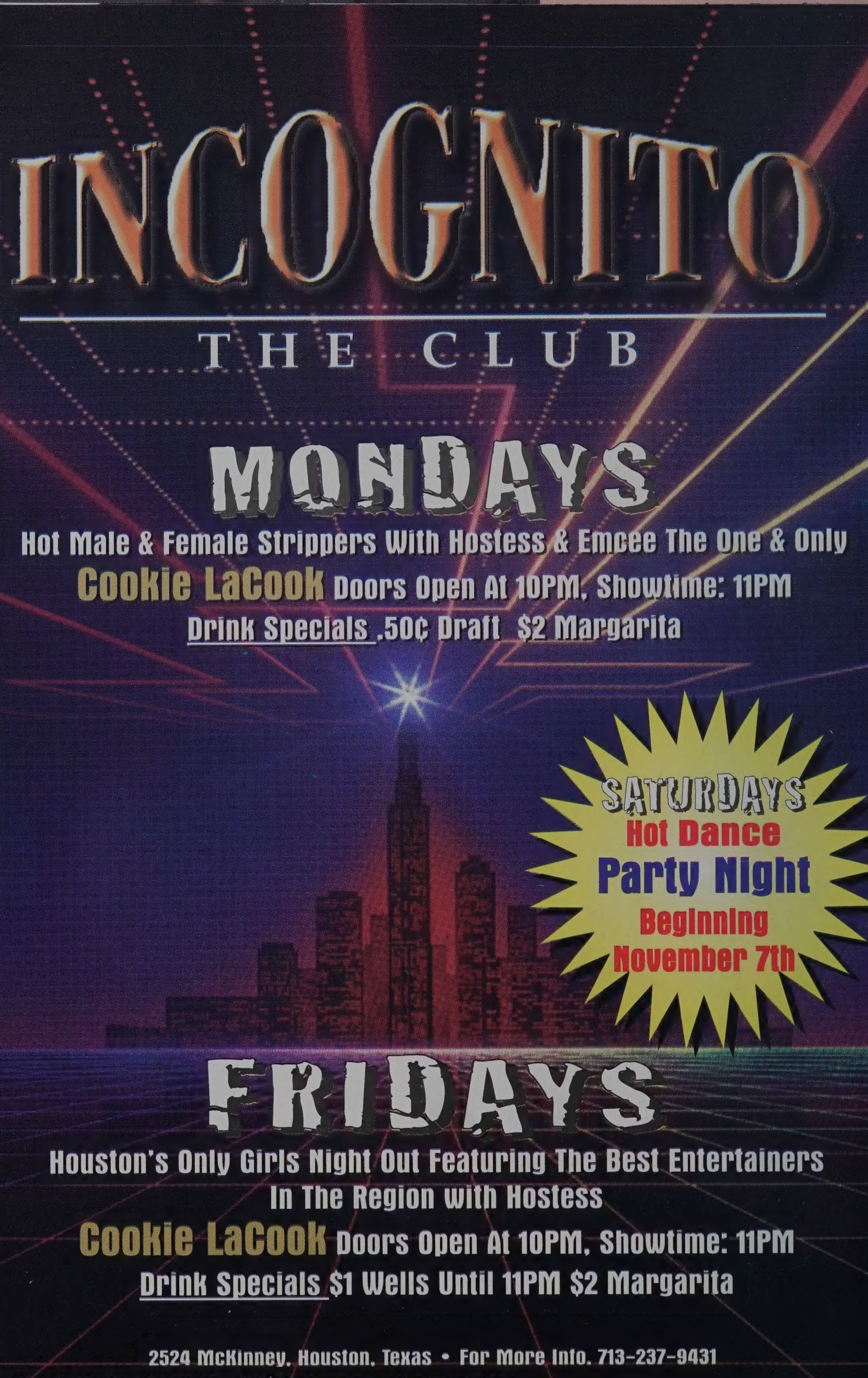
Nov:
Talent Contest



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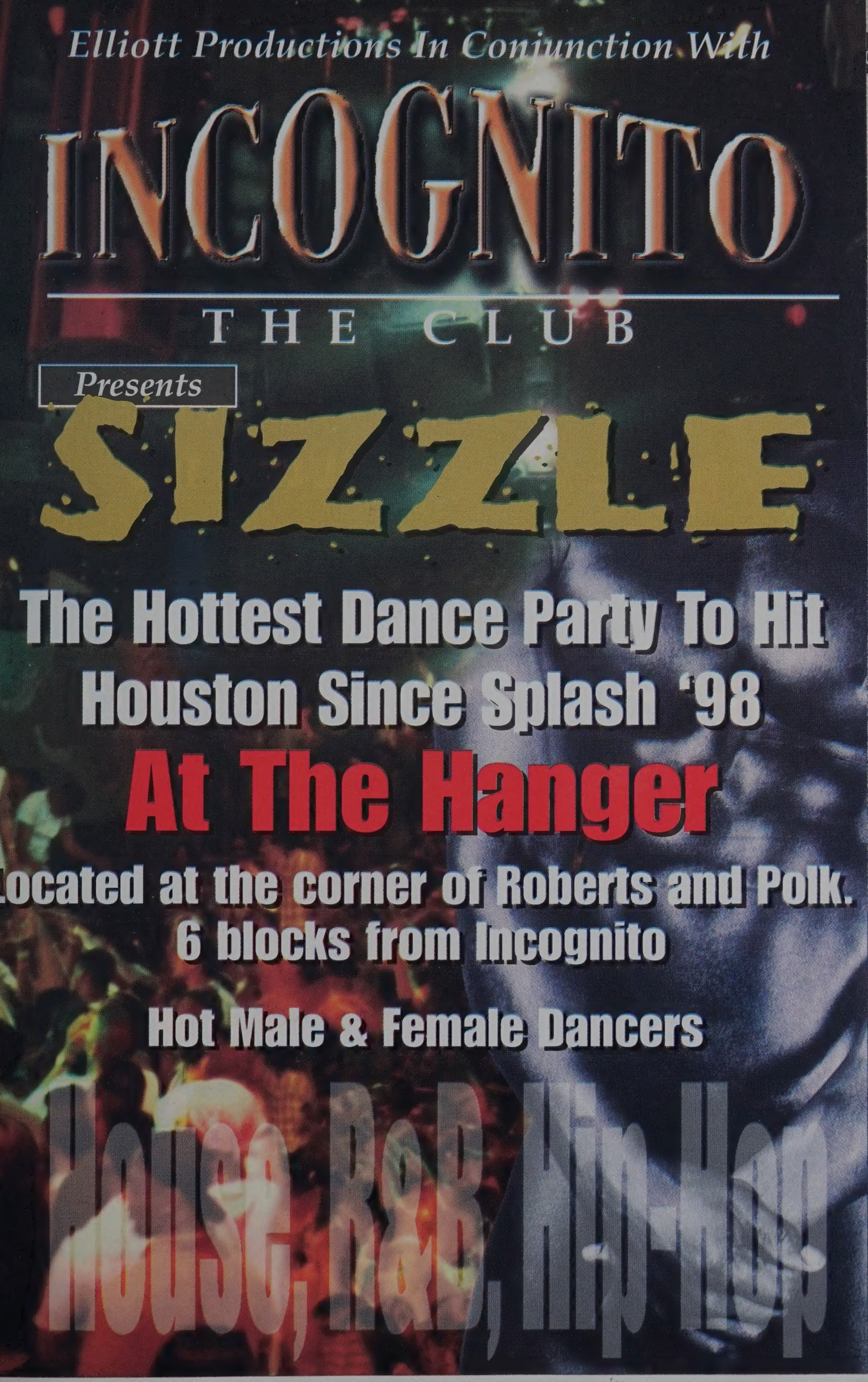

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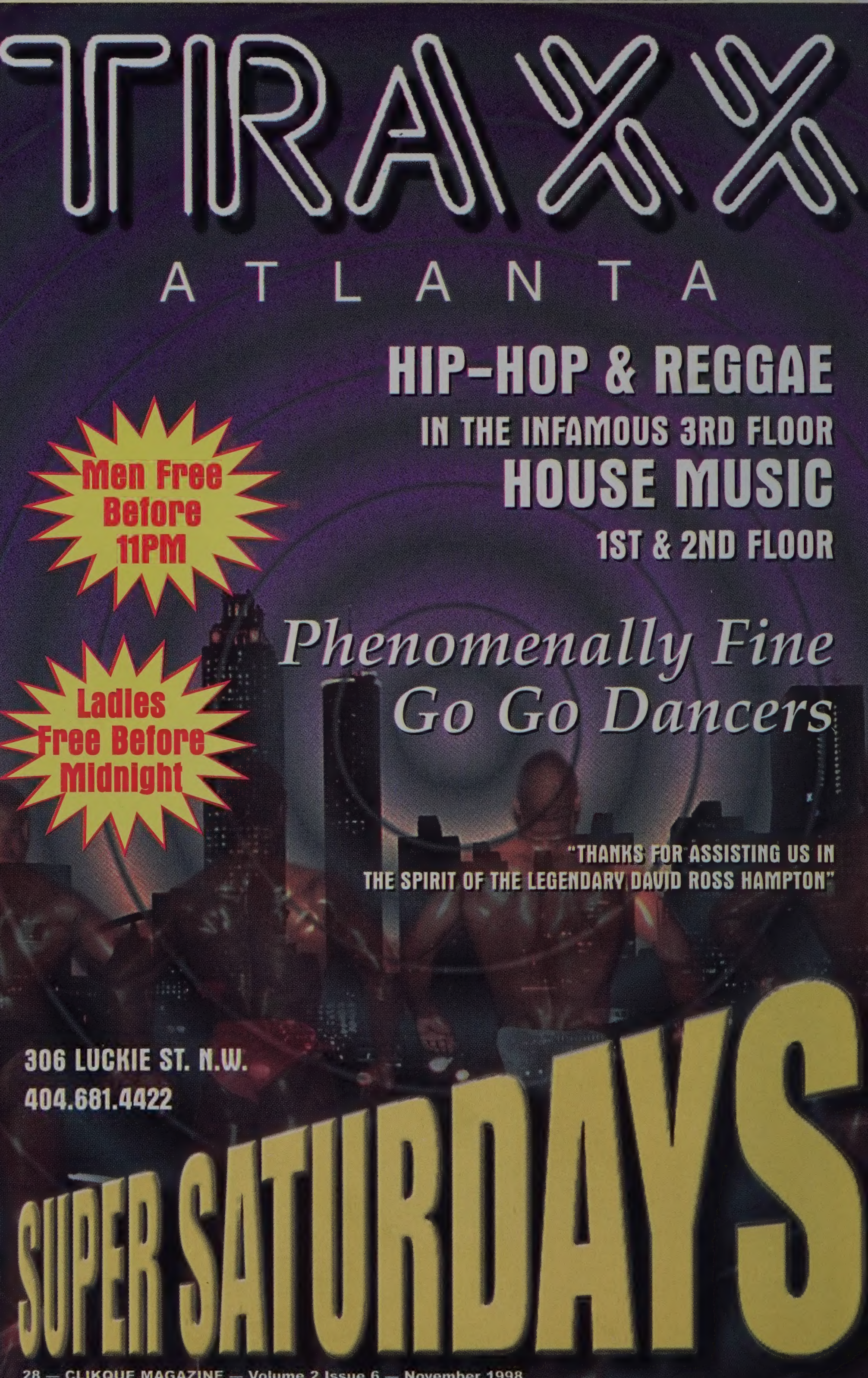

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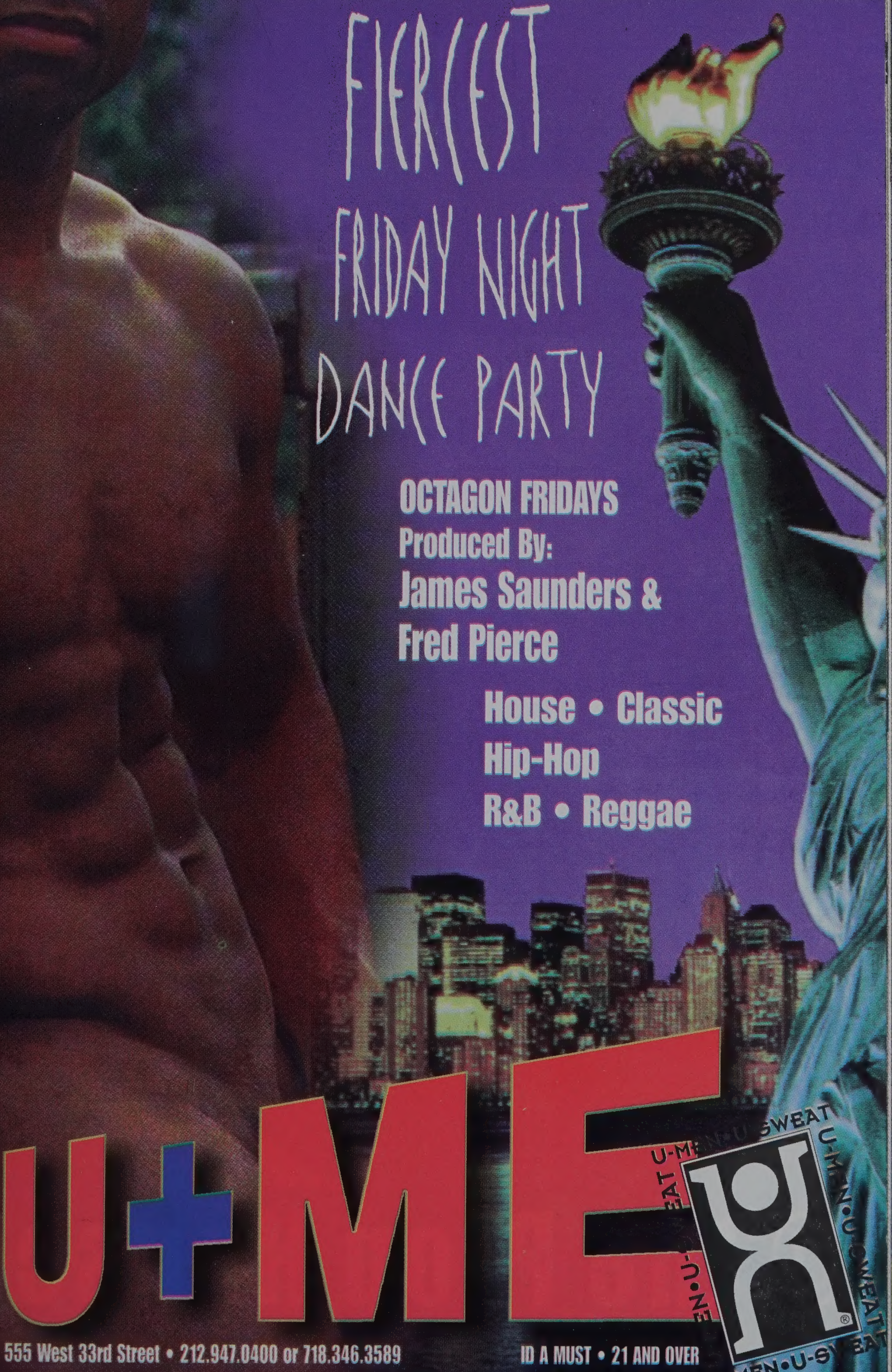

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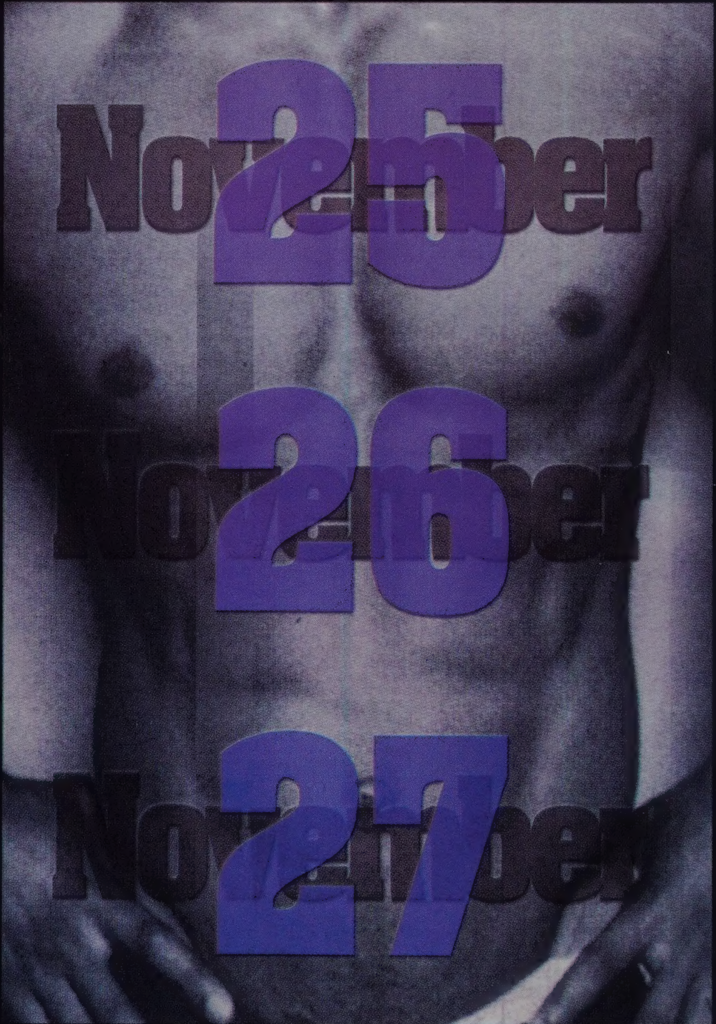
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3. *I may not be Fred Flintstone, but I bet I can make your bed rock.*
4. *I may not be the best looking person here, but I'm the only one talking to you.*
5. *Yo Baby, you be my Dairy Queen, I'll be your Burger King, you treat me right, and I'll do it your way.*
6. *Excuse me, do you have your phone number, I seem to have lost mine.*
7. *I can't find my puppy, can you help me find him? I think he went into this cheap motel room.*
8. *I'm new in town, could I have directions to your house.*
9. *If you were a new hamburger at McDonald's, you would be McGorgeous.*
10. ***You might not be the best looking person here, but beauty is only a light switch away.***

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rejoices at the rapture shared.

***When a man loves a man**, the*
thunderous applause of the universe
confirms it's only natural.

***When a man loves a man**, like a*
brother: Black power takes on a whole
new level of depth and strength.
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solution and the latter always wins,
when a man loves a man in the
center of one love.

By Damone M. Burchette

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CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 1998

"Divas in the Desert" Black Gay Pride Weekend Phoenix, AZ

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Creating Change Conference, Pittsburgh, PA 202-332-6483

DECEMBER 1998

Dec. 2National POZ Life Expo, Washington, DC contact Miguel @ 212-242-2163, ext. 231

JANUARY 1999

Jan. 15 -Bayard Rustin Rally, Atlanta, GA contact Second Sunday Discussion Group@ AID Atlanta office, Craig Washington 404-872-0600

Jan. 15 — Martin Luther King March and National Birthday Observance Atlanta, GA 404-524-1956

FEBRUARY 1999

Feb. — Greater Chicago Committee's 1999 Bayard Rustin Awards DuSable Museum of African-Amercian History 312-670-9660

Feb.12-15 — National Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum (NBLGLF) 12th Annual Conference- Atlanta, GA 202-483-6786 Confrnce98@aol.com, wwwnblglf.com

Feb. — Blackboyz Productions' Luv Fest, Chicago 773-918-5139

Feb. 26,28 — 8th National Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered Writer' Conference "OutWrite 99" Boston Park Plaza Hotel. 617-262-6969, http://www.bsef.org

Feb. - Ajamu Collective Black History Month Celebration Dallas,TX

MARCH 1999

March — National AIDS update Conference, contact krebs@conv.com www.nauc.com

March — African American Lesbian Gay Alliance (AALGA) Awards Banquet Houston, TX; contact mensahel@sprynet.com

APRIL 1999

April 3-4 -Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays Unity Conference-312-409-4917

April - International Bisexual Conference-Boston 617-424-9595, www.biconf.org

April 12 -National Organization of Women (NOW) - Lesbian Rights Summit, Washington DC 202-331-0066 x-771, www.now.org

April 25 -5th National Gay & Lesbian Business Expo, Jacob Javits Convention Center, NYC 800-243-9774

April -Connecticut Health Summit for Gays and Lesbians of African Descent Hartford, CT

MAY 1999

May -9th annual Bayard Rustin Breakfast- Sponsored by AIDS Action, for info 617-450-1644
May 27,30 -Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Memorial Day Weekend Washington D.C. www.blackpride.com

May 30 -At The Beach (ATB) Memorial Day Celebration, LA, CA 310-216-5858

May -"Splash" Weekend Houston, TX

May -African-American Gay & Lesbian Empowerment Summit,Palm Springs, CA

JUNE 1999

June 25,27 -Atlanta Pride Festival Atlanta, GA 404-876-3700 www.atlpride.org

June 29 — "1999 Black Cruise" 2nd Annual African - American Cruise Until July 3 Celebrating Gay men & Lesbians 888-922-2916, magicmarc@aol.com

June — Capital Pride Festival Washington, DC

June — North Carolina Pride Weekend Chapel Hill, NC

June — Black Church & Sexuality Conf. Howard University Washington, DC

June — Churches Respond To: A Call to Care Philadelphia, PA

JULY 1999

July 1-5 -At The Beach (ATB) TBA 213-969-1619

July — "Hotter Than July" Weekend Detroit, MI 313-438-0704

July — ADODI New York Summer Retreat

July — National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) Conference

July — NAACP Convention

July — "Voices of Faith" Conference Denver, CO

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- ✭ What improvements would you like to see?
- ✭ What must we include to keep you wanting more?

MY BEAT

BY: B. GRAFF

Hello, Clikque readers! My name is B.Graff and I'd like to welcome you to ***My Beat,*** a monthly report on the latest releases and news from the ***wonderful world of house music***. In time, this column will feature interviews on up and coming artists, so stay tuned for future developments.

One of the most common criticisms against house is that it's only for the club; that those pounding beats and booming bass lines are too repetitive for "normal" listening enjoyment. It's also said that there are no real house artists, only anonymous studio voices who sing over tracks. To the inexperienced or prejudiced listener, this may be true. But anyone who approaches the music with open ears will find not only that house translates as well in the living room as it does on the dance floor.

This month, we call attention to three recent albums from people whose unique creative vision clearly marks them as artists who deserve your love.

The first comes from ***Kim English, a gospel-trained diva*** who has been thrilling the children with a string of club hits for the last couple of years. After months of delays, her debut album ***Higher Things*** (Nervous Records) is finally out and it does not disappoint.

Some records make that instant connection with you through the emotion of the vocalist or the intricacy of the groove. Luckily for us, Higher Things is filled with cuts which immediately announce to you, ***"I am fierce!"*** The opening cut, the title song, is a statement of positivity and motivation that will help you through those rough times. The remaining 9 tracks cover topics like relationships ("Missing You"), the joys of clubbing ("Night Life"), and staying true to yourself ("Learn 2 Luv"), all done superbly and with an intensity that lets you know that English really feels what she sings. ***Miss Thing even takes us to church on "Supernatural***," a song that has ironically caused drama because of its spiritual message. The only deviation from the club beat is her rendition of Anita Baker's "Been So Long." It doesn't fit in with the rest of the songs on the disc, but it's still better than most of the r & b getting radio play these days. This is a record that is oozing with quality and anyone who listens to it will come away refreshed by English's positive message. Rush out and get it!

Next is ***Scott Grooves, a Detroit keyboardist*** who originally worked with Inner City ("Good Life"). For his album ***Pieces of a Dream*** (Soma Records) he's enlisted a wide range of guests, including ***Roy Ayers and Parliament-Funkadelic, which gives the album a Quincy Jones***-esque feel, where the one constant is the producer.

Throughout the disc, the laidback nature of the songs gives off the vibe of a jazz album, only with house beats. With titles like "The Sax Speaks, " "New Day" and "Feels So Good," you know the emphasis here is on soothing instrumental grooves. Of the two songs that feature vocals, one is Ayers' cover of the classic jazz-funk song "Expansions" while the other features a diva scatting to the beat and is appropriately called "The Scat Groove." ***The album is definitely geared towards home listening; the depth of the instrumentation would probably be lost in a club*** full of writhing bodies. Don't let that description stop you from giving Grooves a listen, though. ***Your ears will be highly rewarded for the effort.***

Finally, props must be given to **Blaze**, the legendary production team responsible for some of house's most magical moments. This vastly underrated group has been making jewels since the 1980s, only to watch a series of less talented, more hyped-up people take their glory. Their recent release is simply called Basic Blaze (Slip N Slide Records) and is an ***excellent showcase for their brand of soulful house music***.

You may already be familiar with their song ***"Lovelee Dae,"*** as it's been pumped across dancefloors since 1997. The remainder of the album is highlighted by deep house rhythms that show more than a touch of jazz influence. If you like meaningful vocals, the songs "Never Can Get Away" and "Wishing You Were Here" cannot be missed. "Sacred Sex" starts off with a definition of the term, and then the beats kick in and make you want some for yourself. Most devastating of all is the inspiration for this column, "My Beat," a piece of chunky house that explains the historical link between African-Americans and drums, dismissing all who can't relate with the question, "can you dance to my beat?" ***Racially uplifting songs*** seem to be hard to come by these days, and this one clearly sets a standard for others to achieve.

That's all from this end of the speaker. Again, this space will become bigger and better with time, and ***I appreciate all your comments***. You may send them to me: via clikquem@aol.com. Until next time, remember that the feet may dance the steps, but only the soul can dance!

Healing is within our grasp!

Continued From Page 16

in our selves, legacy, empowerment and community - as a people. Having this capacity is key to the [White] gay/lesbian community's success, political power and vigilance.

Sure, it is heartbreaking to learn that a young person, Sheppard, was brutally attacked and left hung on a fence to die. Still, admittedly, I, like many in the Black community am still reeling from the endless battery of cruel, gruesome and brutal death of Blacks on a grand scale by hate-crime murders. I like most Americans did not know Matt Sheppard. I do not assume he gave a damn about the life and deaths of people not White (I also do not assume otherwise). But, if I use the [White] gay/lesbian community's attitudes and behavior toward African-American life in general as a gauge to judge attitudes possibly held by Matt I would be a fool to marginalize for Matt my on-going grief perpetually sustained by the horrific (even more horrific than Matt's) deaths of Black people.

It is important to realize that the source of our struggles, disorientation and apparent inability to trust, love and build-up one another successfully as a people/community is rooted in that we are still severely impacted by internalized oppression, institutionalized delusions of White supremacy, White racist thinking and White cultural biases in this country and media. Though it is humiliating to admit, and painful to face, the legacy of slavery is still with many of us, so much so, it appears we do not even know anymore when we are being disrespected. Premature, gruesome, and senseless death has been a regular part of Black life for centuries. We have learned to passively attempt to pray problems away, while other communities actively say "No More" using tactics born from the blood of our more politically active past. Our tendency to endure has fostered a culture of complacency occurring in the wake of mass death, dysfunction and assault on Black people. The Million Man March, a celebration of life and culture, and acknowledgment of the spiritual dearth and psychic conditions Black males endure, a movement galvanized and activated by us, as a result, significantly reduced Black on Black violent crime, in particular gang violence in our midst. As powerful as this was it seems many are still too distracted to understand the power of self-reliance, self-respect and self-love. We do have the power to change things, but if a people do not understand why regardless of their intentions they keep winding up back at square one, they will continue their vicious cycle. Understanding why we do what we do is important. Recognizing and challenging when being disrespected is important, like the [White] gay/lesbian community did regarding Matt Sheppard, activity which was taught to them by our ancestors during the Black Power and civil rights movements - before invention of the jheri curl, the hair weave and a whitened Michael Jackson. It ain't too late for us.

Imperative to our success is acknowledging that institutionally we are oppressed, and to challenge this by being collaboratively and individually vigilant against oppression and not normalizing and tolerating it. We once had this spirit. The [White] gay/lesbian community has it now. When the New York Times mentioned a legacy of activism among gays and lesbians that became successful enough to create complacency, they were really talking about homosexual Whites. The [White] gay/lesbian movement is not a movement on behalf of Black homosexuals and bisexuals. We need to stop denying this and gain the self-respect to build our own movement that resonates with our legacy, struggle and culture. Black homosexuals and bisexuals face a growing suicide rate, failed organizational efforts on a national and local level, monthly publications that die every year and a lingering HIV/AIDS epidemic. In the midst of all this, little has been created to support and affirm Black SGL, bisexual and gay/lesbian identified youth. Still, many Black, Latino and Asian homosexuals, hungry for sexual acceptance somewhere, some who in addition to the conflict of being homosexual in Euro-Christianized communities of color, also contend with internalized oppression, believing they have no choice but to endure racist sexual exploitation and marginalization to attain gay [White] pride.

We are better than this Sisters and Brothers. Many of us are finally growing to see gay/lesbian and White homosexuals as synonymous, while searching for more culturally, inclusive and affirming means to claim ourselves - thus the term same-gender-loving (SGL) and the growing same-gender-loving (SGL) movement. Among us are people who realize, through the Matt Sheppard incident and before, that the primary and possibly the only benefactors of the gay rights movement are White homosexuals. Before there was "Gay pride" there was Black Pride, our ancestors taught America civil disobedience and social change activism. The White gay community relearned because of Shephard's death, the struggle is not over, and in acknowledging that the [White] lesbian/gay community was in the streets. Yes, we should take time to have fun, celebrate ourselves and shop, but, still, the body count indicates our struggle was never over. When we begin rebuilding ourselves in our own image, reclaiming our self-respect and vigilance, and of most importance unlearn our internalized oppression and begin to recognize it in ourselves and lovingly assist each other in working through it, we will then gain the clarity needed to effectively resist oppression, build sustaining support and political systems that will squelch the mass numbers of Black death across sexuality that still occur in America.

ASK Bianca

Bianca is interested in helping you solve some of the greater mysteries of life. Write her at Clikque Magazine,1200 Mckinney St. Suite # 411-101, Houston Texas 77010. Or email her C/o Clikquem@aol.com

Hello gyrlls and boys,

Bianca Alexis Constantine Buchannan is the happiest gyrll in the world. My contract with this magazine is about to expire and I have a few offers to take my column elsewhere. If the Publishers of this rag cannot match the best of my other offers, it is hasta la vista Baby. You, my dears have nothing to worry about as I will leave a forwarding address. Maybe in my next column, the gorgeousness which is my face may appear next to your letters, just like Abbeys. I love Clikque Magazine but with the new house and Killers new Porsche we need more money. Speaking of Killer. He and I are doing just fabulous and we have decided to pose for a holiday greeting card for Hallmark. Abbey and Dr. Ruth were too through when I was the one that got the offer. So come Christmas you will all be able to get photos of me and Killer. You can order them from clikquem@aol.com. Your letters as usual were overwhelming so after I shed a tear, I commenced to answer them.

Dear Bianca,

There was a rumor that you and Killer had broken up because you caught him in bed with the Publisher of Clikque and his boyfriend locked in a three way. If this was true I would like to help you beat him to a pulp because you deserve better, and oh, by the way, I would like to ask you out on a date.
Love Donnie X in LA

Dear Donnie X,

Are you related to Malcolm X? What ever! Who cares? First of all, Killer is not Gay and would never sleep with my boss nor his boyfriend even if they paid him. They are not cute enough! I would never leave Killer over some bullshit like him sleeping with someone else. Where did you get your gossip from, must be the same source that told Catorce that the House of Mizrahi(NY) was closing last month. I am not about to move to LA for a man. Been there, done That! So no thanks, to your offer for a date. My sources tell me that you are goggle eyed and walk with a fierce limp and that you look like a real fag. Don't ever write to me again.
Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I am very much in love with my boyfriend of two years. Recently I met another man who is very much like my boyfriend only a little sexier. He makes me laugh and we have great conversations. We have not had sex, nor kissed or anything but I can not get him off my mind. I want to share that intimate part of me with him. He is so sweet and special. He has a boyfriend as well but I think he likes me like that as well. What to do?
Being Teased in Texas

Dear BT in T.

What will your boyfriend say when he finds out that you have cheated? What if your boyfriend met someone like you, whom he wanted to have? How would you handle it? Why don't you find out from your boyfriend if he likes your new friend and have a threesome. If you boyfriend is opposed to that, then send the boy over to my house and I will have him in your name. If you find you must have this new man be prepared to suffer the consequences. Actually just be friends, your don't have to sleep with every man that you know, who is cute. If I did I would not have time to write this column, I would be lifting my britches as we speak. Exercise some control.
Love Bianca

Dear Bianca,

I live in Houston and I can't seem to find any quality men. Where do I go to find a real nice man with all the things I am lookin for. A big dick, brains, a job and a cute face and also he must make me laugh.
Lonely in Houston,

Dear Lonely,

Miss gyrll, When you find that man in any city, give him my number because I want one of those too... Oh, I didn't mean that, I want one of those for some good, good girlfriends of mine. Keep looking but don't be surprised if he does not exist.
Love and Penis! Bianca.

CLIKASCOPE

GETTING YOUR MONTH OFF TO A GREAT START

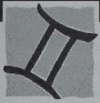
ARIES

Aries- Your time has finally come but it is up to you to make the most of this opportunity. You are in the prime of your life and nothing is going to stop you now. You are more beautiful than ever and your new pieces of Gucci make you look like the million dollars that is your heart. Forgive an old friend for a miss deed and then take that boy you have been holding out on home and screw his brains out.

TAURUS

Taurus- Marry that Cancer boy who has been giving you the eyes. He may be in a relationship but he is dying to get out of it. All he needs is a little encouragement from you and he will be all yours. His money, juicy lips and that gym queen body will be yours to do as you see fit, so make that move now and thank me later.

GEMINI

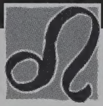


Gemini- You may feel that life is dealing you an unfair hand but things could be so much worse. It is up to you to make that change. Start with the man in the mirror and live today and everyday hereafter as the first day of the rest of your life. See how good it feels. Recycle, start dating an ex.

CANCER

Cancer- How good it feels to be loved and hugged and kissed. These are some of the important things in life to you, because you are a hopeless romantic. If you are not getting this kind of loving, then it is time you start looking for that someone who will give it to you. You deserve no less. You are a star and a rare gem. Let no one tell you that you are anything less. As difficult as it may be, some things in your life must be cut loose.

LEO



Leo- You are such a kind and understanding spirit. A little bull headed but a peach none-the -less. You and your mate are like glue, so keep it that way. All that glitters is not gold so let that wide eyed boy, who has been giving you the look slide right on by. He is not worth the effort. Big things are about to happen in your life. Are you ready for stardom?

VIRGO

Virgo- The town whore in you has come out, but you have restricted that animal in you to just a few partners. Good for you. Soon you will be down to one and those sheets will never be able to remain on the bed as you have found your match. Have fun, just be safe and remember not to loose sight of your real goals. The man wants you to be a success too.

LIBRA

Libra- He loves me, he loves me not.. Stop it! That is not the way life works. Stop doubting that man of yours, as he loves you dearly. He may be a little side tracked, at the moment but no love has been lost. Be nice to him and lend a listening ear, because you were meant for each other. Wash that cuchie, as it will be used quite frequently this month.

SCORPIO

Scorpio- As Venus the goddess of love moves into your birth sign, you will find that your life, has begun to take on real meaning. You are maturing as a person and you have become a cheerful giver. Within the next few weeks you will reap the benefits of all your hard work so prepare a huge Thanksgiving meal and invite all your friends over for a true fag-feast. Love is in the air.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB
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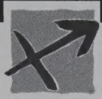
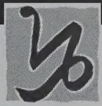
SAGITTARIUS



Sagittarius- You love life and people, but you have a tendency to forget the good that others have done for you in the past. It is pay back time and you should take this opportunity to do something especially nice, for that special person in your life. If you are single find an object of your desire and treat them like a true queen. The rewards will be greater than you can imagine...

CAPRICORN



Capricorn- This is an unusually lucky time of year for you, so this is the time for you to pull out all the stops and take those risks. Whether it be in the bedroom or the boardroom you are destined for success. Wear clean draws because some fine creatures will be ripping them off of you at times when you least expect them to. This month you will give new meaning to the word sex kitten.

AQUARIUS

Aquarius- You and your loved one may be spending too much time together and things are getting a little frustrating. This does not mean that you are growing weary of each other, it just means that your sweetie needs some fresh air, so he may come back into the love nest with a renewed sense of spirit and zest for that phallus of yours. Trust me you two were meant to be. Single Aquarians stop being so cold and give that man who has been chasing you a chance.

PISCES

Pisces - You are a charismatic person and hoards of men flock to you like fly to shit. However it is up to you to decide which ones will be good lays and which ones need to be thrown back to the sea. You will find that this month, you will have a lot to be thankful for. Make a big Thanksgiving dinner and celebrate your regal beauty. Show your friends how much you appreciate them. A Libra finds you irresistible.

Stepping Out

YOUR PREMIER GUIDE TO CLUBS ACROSS AMERICA

Be advised that clubs go out of business and clientele sometime changes. Therefore, it may be in your best interest to call before you visit any of the clubs listed below.

ATLANTA

ARMORY, 836 Juniper, Atlanta 30309, 404-881-9280. Blackest on Fridays for Female Impersonation Divas Show

CLUB FUSION, 550-C Amsterdam Ave., Midtown, 404-872-6411 Black and gay on Firdays and Sundays.

CLUB MILLENNIUM, 1447 Peachtree St., 404-607-8568. Blackest on Tuesdays: Female Impersonations & Thursdays: Dance Party

LORETTA'S, 708 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, 404-874-8125. Rebirth of an Institution. Doors open at 7:30 7 days a week.

MARQUETT, Atlanta, GA

OTHERSIDE, 1924 Piedmont Rd., Atlanta 30324, 404-875-5238. Blackest on Wednesday.

PALACE, 91 Broad Street, Atlanta, GA 404-522-3000. Doors open at 5PM seven days a week.

WAREHOUSE/TRAXX, 306 Luckie St., N.W., Atlanta 30313, 404-681-4422 Black and gay on Saturday. Straight on Thursday and Friday.

CHICAGO

FACES, 130 N. 4th St., East St. Louis 62201, 618-271-7410.

GENERATOR, 306 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60661, 312-243-8889.

GENTRY ON RUSH, 712 N. Rush St., Chicago 60611, 312-664-1033. Blackest on Saturday.

GENTRY ON HALSTED, 3320 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-348-1053. Blackest on Saturday.

JEFFREY PUB, 7041 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago 60649, 773-363-8555.
LITTLE JIM'S, 3501 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-871-6116. Blackest on Saturday.

NUTBUSH CITY LIMITS, 301 N. Harlem Ave., Forest Park 60130, 708-366-5117.

RAILS, 1675 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, Il 708-802-1705

ROSCOE'S TAVERN & CAFE, 3354-6 N. Halsted St., Chicago 60657, 773-281-3355.

DALLAS

METRO, 2204 Elm St., Dallas 75201, 214-742-2101. (Mail: Box 1187, Dallas, TX 75221). manoman226 @aol.com

TRAXX, 1920 Martin Luther King Blvd., Dallas 75215, 214-421-8181.

HOUSTON

INCOGNITO, 2524 McKinney St., Houston 77003, 713-237-9431.

RASCALS, 1318 Westheimer, 77006. 713-942-CLUB. Open Thursday - Sunday from 10PM.

MIAMI/FT, LAUD.

BOARDWALK, 17008 Collins Ave. N., North Miami Beach 33160, 305-354-8617.

COPA NIGHTCLUB, 2800 S. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 33316. Blackest on Sunday.

ON THE WATERFRONT, 3615 N.W. South River Dr., Miami 33142, 305-635-5500. Blackest on Tuesday.

SUGAR'S, 17060 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami 33160-3113, 305-940-9887. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

NEW YORK

CLIT CLUB, 432 W. 14th St., New York 10014, 212-406-1114. Fridays only. Women.

KELLERS, 384 West St., New York 10014, 212-243-1907.

MANHATTAN MONSTER, 80 Grove St., New York 10014, 212-924-3558.

NO. 1 HOT SPOT, 1 Front St., Brooklyn 11201, 718-852-0139.

OCTAGON, 555 W. 33rd St., New York 10001, 212-947-0400.

RED ZONE, 2018 45th St., Astoria 11105-1230.

SOUND FACTORY, 618 W. 46th St., New York 10001, 212-643-0728. Blackest on Saturday.

TWO POTATO, 143 Christopher St., New York 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

ORLANDO / TAMPA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE***, 410 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando 32805, 407-425-7571. Blackest any night after 1 a.m. and on Friday and Saturday.

SOUTHERN NIGHTS****, 375 S. Bumby Ave., Orlando 32803, 407-898-0424. Blackest on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

TRACKS, 1430 E. 7th Ave., Tampa 33605, 813-247-2711. Blackest on Friday and Saturday.

WASHINGTON DC

BACHELOR'S MILL, 1104 8th St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-544-1931.

CIRCLE AKA RASCAL'S, 1629 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington 20036, 202-462-5575. Blackest Friday and Saturday nights, and Sunday afternoon.

DELTA ELITE, 3734 10th St., N.E., Washington 20017, 202-529-0626. Gay on Friday and Saturday.

EDGE, 56 L St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-1200. Blackest Monday, Thursday and Friday.

MR. P'S, 2147 P St., N.W., Washington 20037, 202-293-9009.

TRACKS 2000, 1111 - 1st St., S.E., Washington 20003, 202-488-3320. Blackest on Sunday. Mostly black Womyn's Night last Tuesday of month..

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Canada $31 (4 issues)
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The magazine for Black Gay & Lesbian Brothers & Sisters.
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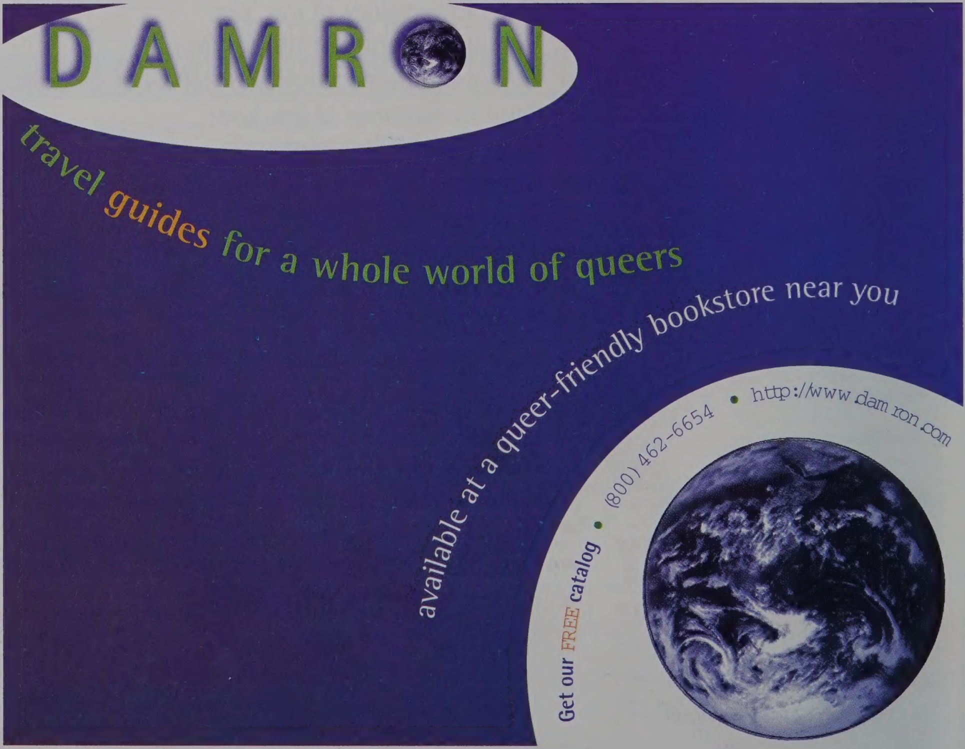

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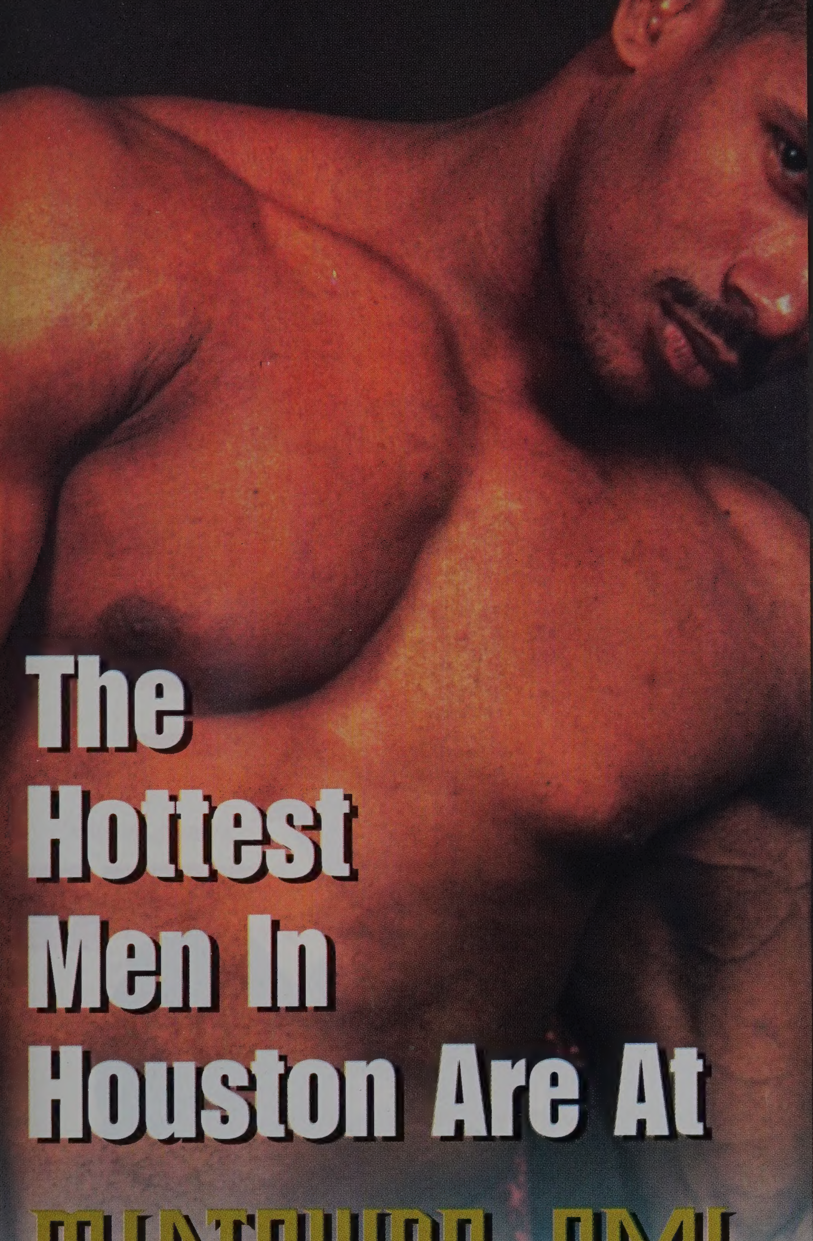

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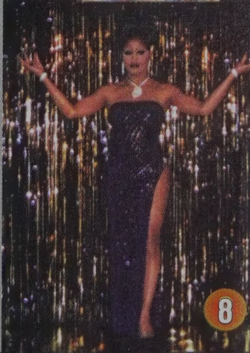

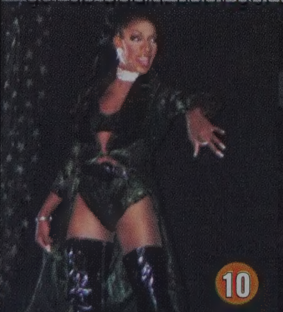

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